

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

In attendance: [REDACTED] (future Project Licence applicant)

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 were approved subject to correction of a typographical error on page 6.

2. Applications for New Project Licences

2.1. [REDACTED], Generation, Breeding & Maintenance of Genetically Altered Rodents

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application, and minutes from the pre-AWERB meeting.

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Discussed:

- Statistical analysis is not relevant for this Project Licence application as it is a service licence for generation and breeding of rodents. Anyone wanting to use animals from this licence will have to carry out their own statistical analysis to inform sample sizes.

- Noted in feedback letter:*
- During the meeting the section on 'outputs' was discussed. The committee noted that you had included only publications where you were a named author but the success by the unit in the generation, breeding and maintenance of the genetically altered rodents is much wider than this. AWERB consider the work the unit does in producing these animals a key service and whilst they recognise that technicians at the unit may not be eligible for authorship on all the publications that are produced from the work that is generated using these animals, they would encourage PIs to include the unit in the acknowledgements section of any publications.
 - AWERB also discussed the use of non-surgical embryo transfer (NSET) and encourage you to proceed with developing this method.

- Revisions:*
- Page 28 – please can you include an explanation of MGS the first time you use it.
 - Page 34 – please can you expand a little on what is barbering.
 - A number of comments were made regarding your Non-Technical Summary which are listed below. Please update your NTS based on the comments and send it to the following lay members for their review

- Page 2 - What's the aim - Line 6; Cryopreservation of such lines (remove 'to') provides health....
- Page 3 - The GAA becomes GA here - could it be GA mice throughout? This would simplify the NTS as you are talking about one thing with one term?
- Page 4 - should Sterile be capital or should it be sterile?
- Page 4 – pregnancy(In ... I think a space is missing after pregnancy and the 'In' should be 'in'?
- Page 5 - could "transgenesis" be rendered in non-technical language or briefly explained?
- Page 7 - How will you stay informed... Line 2 during visits (add 'to') this facility

Outcome: The study was given provisional approval based on the applicant making the changes/clarifications listed above to the satisfaction of the Chair/AWERB.

2.2. [REDACTED], Glucocorticoids & Obesity & Diabetes

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application, and comments from the pre-AWERB meeting.

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Discussed:

- CO₂/O₂ narcosis was discussed including why they are requesting use of this procedure.

- Noted in feedback letter:*
- During the meeting one of the items the committee asked you about was the use of CO₂/O₂ narcosis. After the meeting, the Named Persons present, explained to the other committee members that you had carried out work previously looking at alternative anaesthetics

and had had extensive conversations with the Home Office about the use of CO₂/O₂ narcosis which had been granted on a previous licence. AWERB would like this information including in the application.

- Revisions:*
- Please clarify if publications will be open-access and if raw data will be made available.
 - Please consider attrition for your studies due to the success of surgery and if the number of animals proposed for each experiment is appropriate. [REDACTED] is happy to provide advice on this.
 - Page 28 – please include details of the frequencies and durations of glucocorticoid administration in all relevant sections of the application.
 - There appears to be some discrepancy between how long mice will be kept as on page 5 it says 4 weeks and on page 35 – Step 7 – it states 6 weeks or 6 months. Please can you clarify this.
 - Page 11 – please explain the acronyms POMC and AgRP the first time you use them.
 - Page 24 - Please can you clarify what you mean by ‘individual animals of particular scientific interest’.
 - Page 35 – please can you explain how the impact of cages where mice housed singly can see other mice housed singly will be investigated. Please consider if this should be added as a refinement.
 - Page 37 – please explain CLAMS.
 - Page 45 – please seek advice from the Named Persons in the BSF if a more thorough list of humane endpoints is needed for the question ‘Describe the general humane endpoints that you will apply during the protocol’ or if the animal ‘being unwell such as hunched posture and piloerection’ is sufficient for this section.
 - Page 68 – there is mention to protocol 4, however the application only contains 3 protocols. Please amend.
 - A number of comments were made regarding your Non-Technical Summary which are listed below. Please update your NTS based on the comments and send it to the following lay members for their review [REDACTED]
 - Could the title be revised to give more of a sense of the project for the lay reader? For instance, "Investigating the relationship of 'steroids' (glucocorticoids) to obesity and diabetes." or something similar?

Outcome: The study was given provisional approval based on the applicant making the changes/clarifications listed above to the satisfaction of the Chair/AWERB.

3. Report on licences processed from 28/02/2022 to 08/04/2022

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

3.1. Amendments to Project Licences

[REDACTED], Genes and Essential Nutrient Influences on Behaviour.
[REDACTED], Cardiac Conduction System In Health And Disease.
[REDACTED], Anti-Cancer Therapy Validation.
[REDACTED], Understanding Vision & Developing Therapies for
Blindness
[REDACTED], Brain Immune Responses Driving Behavioural Symptoms
Associated With Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) & Repeated mTBI (rmTBI).
[REDACTED], The Neuroscience of Circadian Rhythms in Health & Disease.

4. Update on applications outstanding from previous meetings and upcoming Project Licence applications

4.1. The committee were provided with a document showing the status of applications considered previously and those pencilled in for future meetings. At the time of the meeting all applications had been submitted to the Home Office apart from the application by [REDACTED].

5. NVS report

5.1. Reports dated February 2022 and March 2022 were provided along with a report on Zebrafish health monitoring dated April 2022.

6. Standard Conditions 18s and non-compliances

6.1. The majority of the items listed in the submitted report had been submitted to ASRU at the time of the meeting.
6.2. ASRU_University of Manchester_[REDACTED]_2022-03-09_sc18. ASRU passed this to enforcement for investigation. The BSF Compliance Assurance Committee was convened. There were no breaches of severity levels.

7. 3Rs AWERB subgroup report

7.1. Minutes from the 23 March 2022 3Rs AWERB subgroup were provided along with review forms considered at the meeting.

8. NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager update

8.1. A webinar is coming up on food restriction in studies and how to increase the welfare of these animals.

9. Any other business

9.1. Away day action log

The Secretary will continue to work on completion of the tasks from the last away day.

9.2. Toes being removed by US company for genotyping

- LW brought to the committee's attention that a client unit they look after had received a mouse from the Mutant Mouse Resource & Research Centers (MMRRC) in the USA who had only one toe, instead of four, on her back foot. After querying this it transpired that MMRRC routinely amputate toes at 7 days old to obtain tissues for genotyping the mice, a practice that is prohibited in the UK and most of the EU, and has been since the 1990s. LW was informed MMRRC would not consider a more refined genotyping method.
- The committee discussed how to proceed should a member of staff or a student at the University of Manchester want to obtain animals from this company in the future.
- The point was made that since the UK and EU have banned this practice for years then researchers should not be obtaining animals from companies where this practice takes place.
- The point was also made that AWERB do not want to inhibit the work of a researcher.
- AWERB were informed that there is an animal importation questionnaire which would state which company the animals were coming from. This form will be reviewed to ensure that genotyping methods are considered when importing animals.

9.3. Joint meeting with RSPCA about 'focusing on severity suffering'

Eighty people took place in person in the meeting and 35 people joined online. It was very well received. Three presentations were given about mitigating actions Project Licence Holders are taking in their studies and a workshop in the afternoon looked at Retrospective Assessments. Slides will be made available.

The next meeting will be on 26 May 2022 at 10am-12.30pm.

Dates of meetings for the 2021/2022 academic year are:

11 November 2021
 16 December 2021
 10 February 2022
 24 February 2022
 17 March 2022
 28 April 2022
 26 May 2022
 23 June 2022
 21 July 2022