

**3Rs subgroup for the
ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2022 were approved.

2. Retrospective reviews of Project Licences requiring licence holder attendance at meeting

2.1. [REDACTED], Cell therapy for diseases of striated muscle

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- An overview of the work completed to date was provided, including an explanation of why ex vivo embryo culture studies were terminated (uterine vessels too small to perfuse without collapsing), and the progress of one potential treatment to clinical trial.
 - The NVS asked for further information about the rat model, and the incidences of mortality. To date this is unexplained – [REDACTED] will connect the NVS with the group in [REDACTED] that originated the model to see if further information can be obtained to understand what the issues were.

2.2. [REDACTED], Treatment and Pathology of Neurological Diseases

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- An overview of the work completed on this licence was presented, including details of a clinical trial for a potential new treatment for MPSIIIA. This was a direct result of work carried out on this licence.
 - Also outlined was work that had been carried out in a sheep model – for a number of reasons this was performed with collaborators in [REDACTED]. The group asked how ethical oversight in [REDACTED] compared with that of the UK. [REDACTED] explained that although the process differed, the two systems were comparable in their ethical oversight of the work.

2.3. [REDACTED], Neural basis of tactile behaviour

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- An overview of the research carried out to date was provided, including a demonstration of how whiskers and their movements can be visualised in 3D using the latest imaging and tracking technologies.
 - It was highlighted that one of the big steps forward in this licence was the move to recording in conscious, freely-moving mice. The Chair asked if there were plans to investigate wireless implants, but currently the recording ability of these are significantly lower than the current, tethered system. Any changes would potentially result in increased numbers of animals being studied.
 - It was noted that significantly less animals had been used than had been requested. It was explained that this was due to the switch to conscious animals. Previous head-fixed studies were performed under terminal anaesthesia; using conscious animals meant these could be studied longitudinally, reducing the number of animals needed.

3. Mid-term reviews of Project Licences not requiring licence holder attendance at meeting

3.1. [REDACTED], Fish Physiology in an Era of Climate Change

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- It was noted that complete responses to some of the 3Rs questions had not been returned. These will be requested before issuing support for continued work on this licence.

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

4. Mid-term reviews of Project Licences previously circulated via email and comments received

- 4.1. [REDACTED], Defining immunoregulation during parasitic helminth infection
- 4.2. [REDACTED], Type 2 inflammation in health and disease
- 4.3. [REDACTED], Immunoregulation during parasitic helminth infection
- 4.4. [REDACTED], Establishment and healthy maintenance of the blood system
- 4.5. [REDACTED], Zebrafish models for investigating cancer formation and progression, immune responses and immunotherapy

4.6. [REDACTED], Cardiac Conduction System in Health and Disease

- Discussed:*
- The combined comments and questions, previously submitted by email, were briefly discussed by the committee. The Chair commented that all questions raised would be forwarded to the relevant PPL holder – answers will be circulated to the 3Rs sub-group before support for further work is issued.
 - Of note – it was highlighted that publishing in accordance with the ARRIVE guidelines is a condition of many funders, and is also a requirement of the University of Manchester. Although a journal may not require a checklist, it is good practice to fill these in – particularly as audits are being encouraged.

5. #Fish in Research campaign and UAR award

Mike Addelman gave a recap of the recent and very successful #Fish in Research campaign, which included the involvement of the University of Manchester Twitter account, as well as an Instagram Takeover of the UAR account by Paul Kasher's group. There was some very positive engagement on social media, and had learned some really valuable lessons during the Instagram takeover e.g. pre-recording as much as possible was very useful.

Mike then also updated the group on the UAR Awards which had happened the previous night – he and BSF communications officer [REDACTED] had attended the awards in London the previous evening, and the University of Manchester was presented with one of 3 awards for our multi-platform approach to engagement. The group congratulated Mike and all those in the BSF who contributed. A discussion on openness and animal research followed – it was noted that the environment has changed in the last decade, that social media presence usually results in positive engagement, and being open about what we do is important as it prevents others from setting the agenda when it comes to public discussions on the use of animals in research.

6. Dates for next year

The Chair will be in touch shortly with proposed dates for meetings next year. The Chair also thanked all those at the meeting for their hard work and engagement over the past year.