

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2023 were approved.

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

2.1. [REDACTED], Designing therapeutic and diagnostic nanotechnologies for medicine

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- This has been a very successful licence.
 - Clinical trials have been initiated and completed from some of the work.
 - Live imaging approaches have meant the number of animals used for each study has been reduced, whilst also allowing for longitudinal studies.
 - An internal feedback/review process was set up to ensure researchers are effectively planning experiments and to highlight opportunities for tissue sharing.
 - Refinements were made in terms of surgical procedures, including a shorter period of anaesthesia.
 - Replacement models are being developed including a lung organoid model.

- The group members thought the way that non-animal models had been validated against in vivo studies was extremely beneficially in moving towards a replacement of animal models in the long term. The cost of doing these types of studies were discussed, and the licence holder said that it is currently cheaper to run an in vivo study than an organoid model.
- The potential to look at how nanomaterials interact with mucosal barrier was discussed, with the offer made by a group member to provide the barrier they have developed to the licence holder.
- The licence holder, or a member of his group, will be invited to an AWERB 'away day' to discuss the organoid model.

2.2.



- Central regulation of appetite and body weight
- Control of arousal and autonomic output from the brain
- Anorexia and cachexia in ageing and disease

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: 

- Discussed:*
- Three licences ran concurrently.
 - The procurement of new equipment meant that the number of animals used was reduced.
 - A discussion took place over the use of epipen type needles which are very small and are a significant refinement.
 - The Chair said that a member of the licence holder's group had given a really good talk at the 3Rs symposium last year. The ability to see neurons firing in real time is amazing.
 - The Chair wondered if anyone used similar methods to the group, but the licence holder said they are probably the only group to do these types of experiments on a regular basis.

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

3.1. , Extracellular matrix mediated control of immune cell recruitment and positioning in health and disease

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The Compliance and Licensing Manager said that the licence holder is making great strides in the use of high resolution imaging in living animals.
 - The group discussed the possibility of showcase imaging techniques being used in animal work.

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

3.2. , Models of tissue injury, regenerative repair, and reconstruction in the limb and appendages.

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The group discussed that at present there is a big push to use non-animal models, but noted that when studies come to AWERB they have probably already got funding to use animal models. The group would like to get researchers to consider replacement models where possible.
 - The group discussed that the licence holder may want to consider zebrafish models as part of his project. The Secretary and Chair will ask the licence holder if they would like to be put in touch with one of the members of the 3Rs group who use zebrafish models to study immune cell recruitment and wound healing.

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

3.3. [REDACTED], Understanding vision and developing therapies for blindness.

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The benefits of habituating animals to masha prior to surgery was discussed. The Chair will look at producing posters for around the unit to promote this.
 - The Compliance and Licensing Manager also explained that it is useful to weigh animals a few days before surgery so that researchers get a good idea of an animal's weight before any surgery is carried out. The Chair will also look at promotion of this around the unit.
 - The group noted that lots of publications had come from this licence but it was unclear if ARRIVE guidelines had been followed. This will be followed up with the licence holder.
 - The licence holder will be invited to an AWERB 'away day' to discuss the new methods for measuring light as experienced by laboratory animals that they have published as an expert consensus. The licence holder stated in their review form that the new metrics improve reproducibility of housing and experimental conditions for their own work and they hope will achieve similar results across the laboratory animal research community world-wide.

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

4. Any other business

4.1. European Animal Research Association Be Open About Animal Research Day

#BOARD24 is celebrating openness about animal research and takes place on Friday, 3 May 2024. It is a global, 24-hour social media campaign that celebrates openness by biomedical institutions in communicating animal research. The university will be taking part this year again.

4.2. BSF at the university's community festival

Staff from the BSF will be taking part in the Universally Manchester Festival to celebrate its bicentenary – the free event taking over campus from Thursday, 6 June to Sunday, 9 June 2024.

4.3.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.4. **3Rs symposium**

The Chair discussed the planned 3Rs symposium in November. A 3Rs prize based on a publication will be happening this year. The Chair will provide more details about the symposium in due course.