

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2024

Present:

[REDACTED]

Apologies:

[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2024 were approved.

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

2.1. [REDACTED], Defining immunoregulation during parasitic helminth infection.

Considered: A completed Retrospective review form and presentation

Interviewed: [REDACTED]

- Discussed:*
- The licence has been extremely successful and the work has appeared on the front cover of 5 journals.
 - Further work is being carried out with another licence holder at the institution to look at a knockout mouse which appears resistant to infection.
 - The licence holder reported that the vaccine only led to a 40% reduction in worms so they are going back to the drawing board to look at how the vaccine is created. Different epitopes (the part of the antigen that can stimulate the immune response) are going to be used to see if this boosts protection against the worms.
 - Both male and female mice are now used in the studies reducing the surplus from breeding, which the researchers do themselves. No

differences have been observed between males and females, although females cope less well than males, so the researchers ensure that females are a certain weight prior to infection. The lack of sex differences is being written up for publication and the Chair discussed how important examples of no sex differences are.

- The related in silico work was discussed and how important this is, but that the predictions from the in silico work do need to be tested in vivo.
- The licence holder discussed work being carried out on wild mice that are naturally infected with a type of worm. The committee thought this work was extremely interesting, and that it would be a great example for public engagement, in that the work is helping not only humans, but animals, including for example livestock.

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

3.1. [REDACTED], Investigating how brain immune responses drive behavioural symptoms associated with mild and repeated traumatic brain injury

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The group had no questions for the licence holder.
 - The researchers have refined their model to the point where they are seeing no effects, which means they have put in an amendment to administer repeated head injuries.

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

3.2. [REDACTED], Cellular homeostasis and brain development

Considered: A completed mid-term review form

- Discussed:*
- The group had no questions for the licence holder.
 - The researchers have submitted two significant amendments to use techniques they have used elsewhere.
 - The replacement models explained in the form were articulated very well.
 - The group thought it was interesting that it was the first time anyone had included FRAME in the review form. As explained on their website, FRAME “was set up to promote and assist research into new techniques and valid scientific substitutes to replace animal research in medical, biological and pharmaceutical research.”

Outcome: The subgroup supported continued work on this licence.

4. Any other business

4.1. Community festival

JS and MA represented the animal facility at the community festival which was a great success.

4.2. Openness about animal research

The Chair raised that people are being more open about animal research and this seems to be being met positively. There is however a big push to use non-animal models and alternatives to using animals. The Chair feels it would be a good time to put some work into media resources to show how alternatives can fit alongside animal models. The group discussed how interesting this would be, with many volunteering to be involved. One example of disease to showcase this, was suggested to be stroke, given the institution and researchers have close clinical and patient interactions. MA is happy to be involved and include this on the external facing website.