MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2024

Present: [redacted]

Apologies: [redacted]

1. **Minutes**

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024 were approved.

2. **Applications for New Project Licences**

2.1. [redacted], Improving Outcomes in Complicated Pregnancies

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application and presentation.

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed with applicant:
- Publication policy for experiments that did not see the expected results.
- Bedding to reduce greasy fur in animals on a high fat diet.
- Paired feeding for the low oxygen environment experiment.
- Breeding of animals to obtain the GA mice required.
- Sharing of animals not required for their experiments, i.e. male mice.

Feedback to applicant: The committee felt that your response on how you publish 'negative' results was exemplary and congratulate you on ensuring the data from the pilot studies is disseminated so that other researchers can learn from what didn't work in your experiments, while highlighting that it may work for another research group. The committee also commend you on the

sharing of surplus male animals from your licence with other research groups.

Revisions: It was explained to the applicant that the committee had provided comments to the Secretariat prior to the meeting and while some would be discussed in the meeting, the list below includes all the comments whether they were raised in the meeting or not.

- A Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) suggests replacing the sizzle nest bedding 2/3 times a week greatly reduces the greasy fur seen in mice fed high fat diet and may be beneficial to include in your licence.
- As discussed in the meeting, it may be beneficial to add pair feeding into the licence for the low oxygen experiments as you explained that when the level of oxygen is very low this can reduce food intake in animals and therefore the pair feeding would be a useful to have as a control.
- A couple 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 member for their review ([redacted]
  - Page 3 - use of ~ in "affecting ~1 in 4 pregnancies" - this symbol may not be understood by lay reader. Could the meaning be expressed in lay language?
  - Page 5-6, it may be useful to explain as you did in the meeting that habituation to being restrained takes place before pregnancy.

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], Pathology & Treatment of Lysosomal & Related Disorders

Considered: A completed AWERB form, PPL application and presentation.

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed with applicant:

- Assessment of circadian function and single housing.
- The lack of changes in behaviour in the immune deficient mice, i.e. normal burrowing, nesting, feeding and drinking, despite observing hyperactivity and loss of working memory.
- Stress versus distress and if these are different in this case, or more a lack of consistency in the terminology used.
- The way in which weight is monitored in the animals.

Revisions: It was explained to the applicant that the committee had provided comments to the Secretariat prior to the meeting and while some would be discussed in the meeting, the list below includes all the comments whether they were raised in the meeting or not.

- As discussed in the meeting, please include information on activity monitoring and single housing (page 30).
- Page 5 - Also as discussed in the meeting, it may be useful to reword the sentence “weight loss will not exceed a humane endpoint of not

more than 15% of previous week's average weight" or provide further explanation.

- Page 36 – it may be beneficial to include a brief mention that the hyperactive phenotype is very mild and the effects seen in the MPSIIIA mice (hyperactivity and loss of working memory) in your experience do not appear to affect their normal behaviour such as nesting, burrowing, feeding and drinking.
- A couple 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]
    - Page 2 - In title and also under AIMS - lysosomal and Mucopolysaccharidoses are technical terms a lay reader will not understand. Could less technical language be used or if these terms are necessary can they be briefly explained? The meaning is provided on p.3 quite clearly - this could be adapted and used to briefly explain the aim/meaning on first use? Otherwise the lay reader is encountering language they may not understand before it is explained.
    - Page 5 - perhaps consider "humanely killed" as opposed to killed if appropriate under paragraph 1 (the phenotyping explanation).
    - Page 5 - phenotyping is arguably a technical term - is there a lay term for this process?
    - Page 5 – As discussed in the meeting, you use stress and distress, and it may be easier to use stress consistently in the licence.

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. Applications for Amendments to Project Licences requiring full committee review

3.1. [redacted], Brain Network Changes in the scPCP Model of Schizophrenia.

Considered: A Home Office amendment summary sheet, highlighted revised project licence and presentation.

Interviewed: [redacted]

Discussed with applicant: The committee felt that the work in the amendment was extremely interesting and wished the Project Licence Holder all the best with it.

Revisions: None.

Outcome: The amendment was given approval.

4. Applications for Category B work (for information only)

4.1. [redacted], The effects of hyperoxia on intertidal pool animals.

Committee discussion: The Compliance and Licensing Manager explained that it was a straightforward application for work that would require ASRU approval if being done in the UK, but it was taking place in Chile. All Named Persons

on the Cat B committee were content with how the work is being governed and had been provided with relevant documentation to support this.

Outcome: The work had been given approval by the Cat B committee.

5. Report on licences processed from 09/05/2024 to 05/06/2024

The following amendments were approved by the executive committee.

5.1. Amendments to Project Licences

[redacted], Mechanisms of Diabetes-Associated Heart Disease
[redacted], The Long Term Effects of Developmental Hypoxia on Cardiac Function
[redacted], Molecular Basis of Infection-Induced Sickness Behaviour

5.2. Amendments to Project Licence [redacted], Breeding and Maintenance of Genetically Altered Rodents

[redacted] Generation of Ext1 fl/fl Mouse Line Using CRISPR
Generation of Chsy1 fl/fl Mouse Line Using CRISPR
[redacted] Generation of Hibitex6-col1a2 Mouse Line Using CRISPR

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

6.1. The committee were provided with a document showing the status of applications considered previously and those pencilled in for future meetings.

7. Standard Conditions 18s and non-compliances

7.1. The committee were provided with a table of reports submitted to ASRU along with the reports for each incident.

7.2. The Establishment Licence Holder has requested a running total of SC18s and non-compliances so that any patterns can be identified and actioned early. An annual review was previously done but a quarterly log will now be produced by the Compliance and Licensing Manager.

8. Any other business

8.1. Away day

The Secretariat will reschedule the cancelled away day.

8.2. AWERB hub meeting

[redacted] are attending the hub meeting and can report back to AWERB on any pertinent matters.

The next meeting will be on 25 July 2024 at 10am-12.30pm.

Dates of meetings for the 2023/2024 academic year are:
21 September 2023
19 October 2023
16 November 2023
14 December 2023
25 January 2024
22 February 2024
21 March 2024
25 April 2024
23 May 2024
20 June 2024
25 July 2024
August break

Dates of meetings for the 2024/2025 academic year are:
19 September 2024
17 October 2024
14 November 2024
12 December 2024
30 January 2025
27 February 2025
27 March 2025
24 April 2025
29 May 2025
26 June 2025
31 July 2025
August break

Dates of meetings for the 2025/2026 academic year are:
25 September 2025
23 October 2025
20 November 2025
18 December 2025