

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 17th January 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance:	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	In process of approval	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (6 th December 2022)	
3.1	3.1 Biostatistician recruitment continues with interviews scheduled for February.	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 Lay member recruitment.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 Chair, NVS, NIO and NC3Rs regional manager completed NC3Rs Self-Assessment. NC3Rs regional manager discusses further in AOB.	Complete.
3.6	3.6 Increase visibility of AWERB on ASU Intranet – template circulated and some submissions from members received. Reminder to all AWERB members to send in their profile.	Ongoing.
3.7	3.7 University of Bristol 3Rs award – discussion for all regarding the application format and judging panel	Discussed in Chairs Report.
3.8	3.8 Umbrella UIN for iTSN	Approved.
3.9	3.9 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Discussed in Chairs Report
4.1	4.1 Meeting with Information Governance Team regarding inconsistencies with language used around animal research	Discussed in Chairs Report

4.2	4.2 Neuroscience festival: FAQ factsheet production.	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	In-person AWERB workshop proposed for June 2023	To formally schedule
4.2	Research & Technical 3Rs Award nomination form to be shared at the next meeting	Ongoing
4.3	Meeting scheduled with Ethics Committee to discuss wider University research governance and integration.	Ongoing
4.4	Meeting scheduled with student union colleague to discuss further engagement with the union.	Ongoing
5	NTCO Report	
5.1	Discussion of Training and Competency Record review.	
5.2	Online PIL Interview Form continuing to work well.	
5.3	Training course continues with a mix of internal and external candidates.	
5.4	Work involving the generation of SOPs continues with NVS.	
5.5	Working with NVS regarding the potential roll-out of DOPs. Update to the research community planned for the upcoming ELH Annual Meeting.	
5.6	Recent ASRU feedback discussed	
6	NVS Report	
6.1	Discussion of recent report and follow up meeting with ASRU following audit.	
6.2	Update regarding ASUMB decisions regarding future management structure of Director-level management for the ASU.	
7	NIO Report	
7.1	3Rs Newsletters, upcoming webinars, calls for papers for upcoming 3Rs international Congress and CPD opportunities circulated to relevant stakeholders.	

7.2	Circulated slides from recent ASC AWERB UK meeting to AWERB members.	
7.3	Update to wording present on external website requested of Media Team.	
7.4	Current issues experienced with mailing list provider.	
7.5	New poster constructed for culture of care recognition award.	NACWO feedback that more posters are required.
8	NACWO Report	
8.1	New equipment for zebrafish unit including live food filtration and autoclave for media and nets.	
8.2	New pig grimace scale chart in development.	
8.3	New irradiated nest building material in use at breeding unit.	
8.4	Technical staff have been working to encourage best practice for breeding colony management.	
8.5	Technical staff are working to promote an increase in frequency of animal handling and reintroductions to group housing after surgery.	
8.6	Improved handling regime for handling animals.	
8.7	Recent rehoming of retiring handling animals.	
8.8	Aims to begin collaborative environmental nesting study.	Ongoing
8.9	Introduction to new NACWO	
5	Project Licences – New Applications. (None)	
6	Project Licences – Amendments. PPLAmend.1Jan23 New method to induce synthetic torpor, extension to circadian rhythm darkness duration.	Approved subject to minor changes

	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durations and endpoints required for induction of torpor and final stated endpoint within the protocol. • Consistency of information within animal experience. • Update required to NTS. • Potential implications for general severity • Commitment to most refined dosing. • Good experimental design detail. • Housing • Training review <p>PPLAmend.2Jan23 Understanding the effect of sleep deprivation on cardiovascular outcomes. Circadian rhythm disruption.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More scientific justification required for how the disruption links to objective • Animal experience and adverse effects • Refined alternatives to proposed disruption method, including handling, or novel object introduction. • More detail required for circadian disruption and likely adverse effect. <p>PPLAmend.3Jan23 Administrative changes to licence: change in PPL holder and allowing for service provision.</p>	<p>Not approved in current form, to be re-reviewed by full committee</p> <p>Approved</p>
7.	<p>Home Office Retrospective Assessments.</p> <p>HORA.1Jan23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail required <p>HORA.2Jan23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more detail of the project successes • Details of analgesic regime • Progressions made regarding replacement cell cultures <p>HORA.3Jan23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more detail of project successes • Potential use of pluripotent cell system • Encouragement of publication of negative results in a data repository 	<p>Approved subject to minor changes, to be re-reviewed by Chair & NVS</p> <p>Approved subject to minor changes, to be re-reviewed by Chair & NVS</p> <p>Approved subject to minor changes, to be re-reviewed by Chair & NVS</p>

13	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
13.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-5 AWERB approved: 4, AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1, 2, 5 AWERB did not yet approved: 3</p>	Secretary to inform
13.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.3 – Proposed crab housing to be reviewed by aquatic technical staff. Discussion of the harm vs benefit evaluation. Requested clearer description of the scientific aims of the work.</p> <p>UIN.5 – Schedule 1 method requires revision.</p>	
13.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1-8 AWERB approved: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1 AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
13.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>1. Standardised consent form required.</p> <p>7. Discussion as whole committee regarding blanket approval for the storing of residual clinical samples. Consent given within standardised patient consent form. Individual VINs still required for subsequent use.</p> <p>8. Human ethics review not required for this project</p>	Approved
13.2.2	Reviewer contacted for advice regarding ethics of international collaborations and differing approvals for sample collection protocol. Committee has advised that VIN should be updated to include the context of the collaborations.	
13.2.3	Reviewer is working to streamline process for owner contact for follow-up information on ongoing cases – meeting scheduled and documents will be circulated.	Ongoing

13.2.3	Reviewer is working collaboratively to establish a UK-wide association of ethical veterinary reviewers. Initial focus will be on standardisation of interpretation of legislation and the production of CPD materials for those sitting on veterinary ethics review bodies.	Ongoing
14	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
14.1	UINAmend.1Jan23 – detail of acclimatisation procedure required - Not approved in current form UINAmend.2Jan23 – Approved VINAmend.1Jan23 – Approved VINAmend.2Jan23 - Approved	
15	AWERB Hub. (None)	
16	For Information.	
16.1	(None)	
17.	Any Other Business.	
17.1	Introducing deadline to move all projects from paper-based Pre-Study Briefing to online Study Plans.	AWERB advises to allow paper-based to run out to natural expiry and for all new/amendments to be online.
17.2	Outcomes of NC3Rs Self Assessment – full AWERB committee will be presented with more detailed feedback in at next themed 3Rs meeting. Important to focus on targets and aims that result in tangible impacts Potential route for improvement include: Appointment of an academic 3Rs leader Draft public facing 3Rs strategy document Dissemination of 3Rs initiatives and share across departments Replacement is the R that needs most focus	

17.3	<p>Cryopreservation service to reduce animal numbers 3Rs case studies & biostatistician. 3Rs award – already in progress Discussion regarding approval routes for new projects and work streams</p> <p>Notice of intention to submit funding proposal for website and CPD materials for refinement handling, habituation and husbandry guidelines. Intention to utilise external website provider and photographer. Discussion around options for mandating refinements as an AWERB.</p>	<p>Sci member to update following funding decision.</p>
17.4	<p>Scheduling of periodic face to face meetings.</p>	<p>Members to consider for next meeting</p>
18.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 21st February 2023 21st March 2023 25th April 2023 23rd May 2023 20th June 2023 18th July 2023</p>	