

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 18thth May 2022, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x Committee members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and finalised for ASUMB.	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (27 th April 2022)	
3.1	3.2 Biostatistician recruitment approved for a longer-term sustainable position; role descriptor being reviewed.	Ongoing
3.2	3.5 Generation of general PPL SOPs in preparation for Home Office audit.	Forward ASU surgery guidance to AWERB Chair
3.3	3.6 Outsourcing of breeding is no longer being pursued.	Complete
3.4	3.7 Employment requirements of PPL holders should be qualified to direct the programme of work and trained (Module 5) and can be shorter term contract employee, with compliance maintained through internal governance mechanisms.	Complete
3.5	3.8 Approved role descriptor with HR for AWERB lay membership recruitment and advert prepared.	Ongoing
3.6	3.9 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs - to be discussed at next ASUMB	Ongoing
3.7	5.4 Inclusion of reminder of handling policy and training routes in ASU Coms.	Ongoing
3.8	4.2 Updated PPL Guidance to include need to provide realistic translational timelines	Complete
3.9	4.2 Review current material hosted on public facing websites.	Paper to be prepared by outgoing and incoming AWERB Chairs regarding the approach to

		dissemination of animal research related materials and increasing transparency
3.10	4.2 Ensure PPL holders discuss training required for new PIL holders for security and public challenges.	Complete
3.11	7.2 NIO created adapted S.E.C poster to help mitigate ZF aquarium water errors.	Complete
3.12	17.3 AWERB have received the ELH commissioned review of lessons learned from lockdown – to be discussed at next AWERB meeting.	Ongoing
3.13	12.1.1 UIN.7April22 – clarifications received and approved.	Complete
3.14	Langford Vets clinical ethics first meeting. Improved clarity and oversight for VIN projects.	Complete
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Last AWERB meeting under current Chair.	
4.2	Proposed increase in recruitment to AWERB.	
4.3	Dissemination of public engagement information.	Action detailed in 3.9
4.4	The annual release of the returns of procedure numbers should consider addressing research funding and the remit of fundamental research.	
4.5	Discussion of potential to run workshop about animal alternatives in research.	NC3Rs Regional Manager to look at organising a session on replacement as part of the next GW4 regional symposium.
5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	Training and Competency monthly review discussed.	
5.2	Animal management software expiry notification systems – manual reminders still ongoing. Increased automatic notification period to 6 months with subsequent follow ups.	

5.3	Animal management software demonstration for new AWERB Chair	
5.4	Licensee training courses planned to be blended for the next academic year.	
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	Relevant webinars and 3Rs information circulated to stakeholders.	
6.2	Planned Newsletter communications paused due to changes in ASU Management	
6.3	Attended Concordat on Openness workshop with notes made available to ASU managers and interested AWERB members	
7	NVS Report.	
7.1	Recent spread of a minor respiratory symptom seen in some animals. No adverse health effects seen in affected animals and no expected welfare implications. Biosecurity measures have been put in place to limit spread.	
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	Aspen ball spherical wood chews have shown to be a popular enrichment for rats.	
8.2	Increase in the application of refined large animal transport training.	
8.3	A refined in-cage delivery device has been developed in collaboration with ASU technical staff, alongside a more refined husbandry protocol developed with NAWCOs for an upcoming experimental cohort.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	PPL.1May22 Aims: Fundamental biology project designed to understand the mechanisms which underlie memory formation with a primary focus on aversive learning. Links to wider insights into disorders such as anxiety although with only long-term impacts on clinical outcomes.	Approved subject to changes, changes to be reviewed by NVS. NIO to send link to PPL Guidance Docs

	<p>Benefits: Knowledge gain relating to how rodent encode fear related memories and the mechanisms involved in modulating these behaviours. Limited translational implications within 5 year programme but with longer term potential to impact on new treatments for anxiety disorders.</p> <p>Harms: Use of aversive training methods and with some animals requiring surgical interventions. Choice of model based largely on previous work and incremental work which builds from this literature.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to address scientific language in current non-technical summary and how to achieve this • More detail about the rationale for the potential molecular targets and how studies in animals will be informed by non-animal methods. • Clarity of what is meant by pseudo-interventions vs. sham and how use of animals to generate control data has been minimised. • Rationale for choice of model and relevance to the wider scientific objectives. • Routes of administration and use of refined methods • Clarification on overall protocol severity versus individual animal experience. • Implications of sex differences on reproducibility, effect size and sample size and best approach to reduce animal numbers • Approaches being developed which could refine the methods and be more applicable to both sexes within animal model • Rationale for the choice of aversive stimuli and need for the current upper limit for the aversive stimuli • More information about the expected and potential adverse effects for the individual protocol steps. 	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1May22 Change to the name of the licence holder	Approved
11 11.1	Project Licence Reviews Mid Term Reviews (None)	
11.2 11.2.1	Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)	
11.3 11.3.1	Final Reviews. (None)	

12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1 - 6 AWERB approved: 2, 3, 1, 6, 4, AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB did not yet approve: 5</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>1 – approved via Chairs Actions due to travel deadlines</p> <p>5 – more detail regarding proposed procedures required.</p>	
12.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1-3 AWERB approved: 1, 2, 3 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>1 – Application is a case report and therefore does not require ethical approval.</p>	NIO to send applicant guidance documents for future reference.
13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None).	
14	<p>AWERB Hub.</p> <p>Discussion regarding future hosting of a meeting.</p>	
16	For Information. (None)	
17	Any Other Business.	

17.1	Discussion of potential PPL Amendment content.	
17.2	Agreement to discuss COVID-19 Lessons Learnt document at the next AWERB.	
18.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 14 th June 2022 12 th July 2022	