

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 21st February 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x members, 2 x observers	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and finalised for ASUMB.	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (17 th January 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Biostatistician recruitment – interviews completed, and candidate appointed in principle.	Ongoing
3.2	3.2 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 Lay member recruitment.	Complete.
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. Results discussed within this session.	Complete.
3.6	3.6 Increase visibility of AWERB on ASU Intranet.	Complete.
3.7	3.7 University of Bristol 3Rs award	Ongoing.
3.8	3.9 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.9	3.10 Meeting with Information Governance Team regarding inconsistencies with language used around animal research	Complete.
3.10	3.11 Neuroscience festival: FAQ factsheet production.	Complete.

3.11	4.1 AWERB June workshop dates	Ongoing.
3.12	8.8 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing
3.13	13.2.3 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing
3.14	13.2.4 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Reflections on ELH Annual Meeting	
4.2	Discussion of recent FOIs.	
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	
5.1	<p>PPL.1Feb23</p> <p>Aims: To gain greater understanding of blood vessel glycocalyx biology in health and disease so that targeted therapeutics can be developed.</p> <p>Benefits: Dysfunction of the glycocalyx is a contributing factor in several important diseases including diabetes, kidney disease, atherosclerosis, and sepsis. The purpose of the outlined work is to advance understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying the formation and maintenance of the glycocalyx. This may help guide the development of therapeutic interventions that could be used to restore its integrity and thereby reduce the severity and improve the outcome of diseases for which glycocalyx dysfunction plays a contributing role</p> <p>Harms: Rats and mice (mainly) used. Described as largely mild procedures and some moderate. This is stated because lots of interventions are non-invasive or terminal and disease models are refined. Harms include inducing disease state (diabetes, sepsis), surgery</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely cumulative severity of proposed procedures • Historical severity experience of animals under previously run protocols. • Technical language in the lay summary. • Use of metabolic cages and hydrophobic sand. • Flow diagram of likely animal experience in the various models. 	Approved subject to changes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory <i>in vitro</i> work. • Use of both sexes • Husbandry and monitoring following surgery. • Dosing routes. • Internal funding routes for refinement pilot projects. 	
6	Project Licences – Amendments.	
6.1	PPLAmend.2Jan23 Resubmission Addition to protocol to include sleep disruption.	Approved subject to minor clarification
6.2	PPLAmend.1Feb23 Addition to protocol to include the disruption of circadian rhythm. Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects and animal experience • Upper limits required within the licence. 	Approved subject to clarifications
6.3	PPLAmend.2Feb23 Increase in duration of anaesthetic and ultrasound imaging duration. Discussion: Publication evidencing no adverse effect requested for ultrasound duration.	Approved subject to minor clarification
7	Culture of Care Subgroup Update	
7.1.1	3 meetings have been held since group creation.	
7.1.2	Increased number of research posters and photography with descriptive information present around animal units.	
7.1.3	Increase in technical training, with training talks included at the end of weekly meetings.	
7.1.4	Formalised wildtype zebrafish rehoming questionnaire	Approved
7.1.5	Standardised wording for grant applications and publications.	To be held centrally by Governance Team, NIO to work with NVS on generation, advertisement, and Intranet information page.

7.1.6	<p>Mouse passport template. Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWERB suggests ASU ask suppliers to provide the information. • Scientific reviewer feeds back that information at the cage-side would be most useful. • The process may not be necessary for mild severity GAAs. • Suggestion to add the step for moderate lines within Study Plans. • Consider further work: passport for moderate severity zebrafish strains. 	NVS to discuss with zebrafish research community.
7.1.7	GW4 Culture of Care group formed– similar issues seen across institutions e.g time allocated for culture of care initiatives. Looking at potential for technical staff exchanges.	
8. 8.1	<p>3Rs Update.</p> <p>Consider specific workshop meeting to discuss outcomes of the Self-Assessment. Recap of the scope and intent of the two levels of Self-Assessment tool. Discussion of the results of the self-assessment. Key feedback points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An academic 3Rs lead. • 3Rs case studies for external website – currently underway. • More focus on replacement focused activities. • Financial support. • Mechanisms for wider update of 3Rs initiatives across non-animal users. • Topic-specific 3Rs workshops. • Consider 3Rs in recruitment. • Inclusion of 3Rs in staff appraisals. • Encourage the use of the group self-assessment tool. • Policy on cryopreservation. • Encourage the submission of EDA reports alongside PPL applications. • Dipstick assessment of compliance with the ARRIVE guidelines. • 3Rs training sessions to all bioscience postgrads – not just animal researchers. • Encourage consideration of the 3Rs for PhD thesis submission. • Encourage publication of null/negative animal data. • Public facing 3Rs strategy. 	Ongoing

9	Head Fixation Mouse Procedures Working Group Update	
9.1	Evaluating different methods of water restriction: fixed volume vs scheduled access. Scheduled access favoured as more refined, however a threshold has been seen dependent on task complexity.	
9.2	Discussion on reporting requirements of this group – AWERB fed back that the updates are welcomed and provide important contexts for future licencing decisions.	
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
10.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN 1, 2 AWERB approved: 2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1 AWERB did not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
10.1.1	UINs to note: UIN.1 – specify acclimatisation protocol and animal numbers required.	
10.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1 -9 AWERB approved: 2, 4 - 6, 9 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1, 3, 8 AWERB not yet approved: 7	Secretary to inform
10.2.1	VINs to note: VIN.1 – Consent form requires logo VIN.3 – Provide more detail about proposed equipment. VIN.7 – Discussion regarding inclusion criteria and additional supporting documents required for the study. VIN.8 – Revised sample size calculations required.	

11	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
12	AWERB Hub. (None)	
13	Any Other Business.	
13.1	Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas. NC3Rs questionnaires available for funding stage.	Discussion for future meeting
13.2	Collaboration for publication on tissue sharing methodology.	Approved
13.3	Criteria for Bristol 3Rs award for academic and technical staff	Ongoing
13.4	Teaching Animal Welfare Group will co-ordinate logistics of AWERB-approved studies involving farm and companion animals owner by staff to prevent over-subscription of animals' time.	
14.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 21 st March 2023 25 th April 2023 23 rd May 2023 20 th June 2023 18 th July 2023	