

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: Apologies from lay – comments sent.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and finalised for ASUMB.	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Biostatistician recruitment	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.3	3.4 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.7 University of Bristol 3Rs award - Feedback received and thanks to members for their input.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.9 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.6	3.12 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.7	3.13 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.8	3.14 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.9	7.1.5 Standardised wording for grant applications and publications	Ongoing.
3.10	7.1.6 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.11	13.1 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.

<p>4</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>Chair's Report</p> <p>New scientific member joining AWERB.</p> <p>Thanks to committee for selecting workshop date.</p> <p>Presented to University Ethics Review Committee</p>	<p>AWERB Chair and key members invited to attend meeting regarding ethics involving third-party research collaborations.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p>Project Licences – New Applications.</p> <p>PPL.1Mar23</p> <p>Aims: To define mechanisms through which genes linked with the risk of psychiatric disease impact brain activity and behaviour. The findings will be integrated with clinical work in humans to inform new diagnosis and treatment approaches for schizophrenia and related disorders.</p> <p>Benefits: Back-translation of signatures of abnormal brain activity and cognition from people at links with clinicians, patients and industry.</p> <p>Harms: GA mice/rats (carrying mutants that simulate copy number variants), behaviour tests and surgical procedures, to either attach electrodes to the skull for EEG recordings or to implant electrodes into selected brain regions for multiple single neuron population recordings. Prospective severity mild and moderate.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong justification for research aims and model selection</li> <li>• Use of pharmacological agents</li> <li>• Suitability of early life adversity for rodent models</li> <li>• Potential use of positive re-enforcement during habitation training</li> <li>• Weight loss monitoring</li> <li>• Handling and habitation regime</li> </ul> <p>PPL.2Mar23</p>	<p>Approved subject to changes discussed with AWERB.</p>

	<p>This licence application was submitted in order to gather initial feedback on the concept and approach before writing a full application.</p> <p>Aims: An education and training licence for surgeons to learn how to deliver novel gene therapies</p> <p>Benefits: To enable surgeons to receive training in the delivery of gene therapies that require a novel approach.</p> <p>Harms: The course will enable surgeons to acquire the practical skills and knowledge needed to ensure that gene therapies requiring the use of novel delivery systems are administered effectively.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims of the training and requirement use of animals</li> <li>• Potential patient benefits and surgery success</li> <li>• Importance of imaging technique</li> <li>• Existing expertise and husbandry</li> <li>• Predictions of numbers of training instances</li> </ul>	
6	Project Licences – Amendments.	
6.1	<p>PPLAmend.1Mar23</p> <p>Secondary availability</p> <p>Update to adverse effects</p>	Approved
7	Mid Term Reviews	
7.1.	<p>MTR.1Mar23</p> <p>Stem cell therapies for neurological diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower animals used due to COVID delays</li> <li>• One amendment following adverse effect</li> <li>• Optimised technique resulting in fewer mice</li> <li>• Refinement using an imaging system use has led to earlier endpoint</li> <li>• Conference presentations</li> </ul>	<p>Approved</p> <p>NIO to contact to follow up on details about reduction and refinement achievements</p>

7.2	<p>MTR.2Mar23 Gene therapy and drug delivery methods for acute brain condition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID results in delays</li> <li>• Model development underway</li> <li>• Equipment introduced to refine surgical experience</li> <li>• Presentations given at conferences</li> </ul>	Approved
7.3	<p>MTR.3Mar23 Glucocorticoid rhythm disruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal adverse effects</li> <li>• Progress made across all objectives</li> <li>• One amendment approved</li> <li>• Refinements and reduction techniques reported</li> <li>• Papers in preparation</li> </ul>	<p>Approved NIO to contact to follow up on details about reduction and refinement achievements</p> <p>NVS, NIO &amp; Culture of Care group to review if wording of MTR &amp; FR Forms can better capture 3Rs achievement details.</p>
8.	Final Reviews	
8.1	Final.1Mar23 – postponed to next meeting	
8.2	Final.2Mar23 – postponed to next meeting	
8.3	Final.3Mar23 – postponed to next meeting	
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
10.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN 1 - 3 AWERB approved: AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1, 3</p>	Secretary to inform

	AWERB did not yet approved: 2	
10.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.1 – project duration and animal numbers required. Justification for species selection</p> <p>UIN.2 – animal source, numbers and course allocation required.</p> <p>UIN.3 - animal number required. Potential replacement technology paper shared.</p>	
10.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 5</p> <p>AWERB approved: 2 - 5</p> <p>AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1</p> <p>AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
10.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.1 – include information of potential adverse effects.</p>	
11	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
11.1	VINAmend.1Mar23	Approved
11.2	VINAmend.2Mar23	Approved
12	AWERB Hub. (None)	
13	Any Other Business.	
13.1	Experiences of informative and positive interactions at the animal research stand at recent public engagement at Neuroscience Festival. Congratulations to Scientific Member and animal research staff.	
13.2	A discussion on the University's approach to Culture of Care for example ensuring staff are supported and can have a voice, some thoughts on being able to engage further with students were discussed.	Chair to raise with ELH and ASUMB. ASU to consider the continuation of hosting

stalls at Welcome Fair and Freshers Fair.

14.

**Dates of Next Meetings** (Online until further notice):

- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023
- 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023