

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 26th April 2022, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 X Committee members, 2 x observers	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and finalised for ASUMB.	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (15 th March 2022)	
3.1	3.1 Appointment of external Chair – in attendance.	Complete
3.2	3.2 Biostatistician role continues to be discussed at ASUMB.	Ongoing
3.3	3.4 NVS has not received feedback regarding the new reporting guidelines for Standard Condition 18 reports. If further information becomes available through any forums, it will be forwarded to AWERB for information.	Complete
3.4	3.5 Generation of general PPL SOPs in preparation for Home Office audit.	Ongoing
3.5	3.6 Procurement workshop regarding outsourcing breeding	Ongoing
3.6	3.7 Employment requirements of PPL holders – to be discussed at ASUMB	Ongoing
3.7	3.8 Recruitment of lay membership to AWERB continues to be discussed at ASUMB	Ongoing
3.8	9.2 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs - to be discussed at ASUMB	Ongoing
3.9	9.1 PPL.1Feb22 revisions received and approved	Complete
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Welcome to new Chair and second NVS	

4.2	Meeting with animal rights organisation and elected official to discuss the University's research involving forced swimming models. Useful feedback included the request to increase the amount of information made available in public facing documents and the importance of communicating timeframes to benefits where research is fundamental versus translational. Consider the publication of non-technical summaries.	Update PPL Guidance documents to highlight need to provide realistic translational timelines. Review current material hosted on public facing websites. Ensure PPL holders discuss training required for new PIL holders for security and public challenges. Approach to dissemination of animal research related materials and increasing transparency to be discussed at ASUMB
5	<p>NTCO Report.</p> <p>5.1 Training and Competency monthly review discussed.</p> <p>5.2 Automatic PIL technique expiry notifications are undergoing troubleshooting.</p> <p>5.3 5 PIL training courses delivered this academic year. May course cancelled due to lack of demand.</p> <p>5.4 Incidences of non-policy handling observed.</p>	Inclusion of reminders of university policy in upcoming ASU Communications. Group leader involved must have a meeting with relevant senior staff. Review relevant guidance documents.
6	NIO Report.	

6.1	Relevant webinars and 3Rs information circulated to stakeholders.	
6.2	New mailing list for AWERB members instated to improve inclusion within ASU Communications.	
6.3	Increase in requests to join internal tissue sharing network.	
7	NVS Report.	
7.1	Standard Condition 18 reports from breeding mice. Researchers with GAA colonies have been asked to review the ages of their colonies.	NIO to assist with poster design
7.2	Two unexpected deaths within fish units due to water supply failures have been reported to the Home Office, changes have been instigated within the aquarium to mitigate these risks.	
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	New chew, seesaws and gel flavoured enrichment currently being trialled with handling rodents.	
8.2	ECR 3Rs Meeting report discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rat playpen presentation • Zebrafish enrichment • 3Rs journal club 	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	<p>PPL.1Apr22</p> <p>Aims: To evaluate a transcranial ultrasound stimulation method for future clinical use using a rodent model. Primary focus on neurochemical effects and quantifying outcomes in terms of different neuromodulatory systems.</p> <p>Benefits: Fundamental biology with translation to clinical outcomes in the long term. Neurobiological effects of novel neurostimulation methods will be determined postmortem in animals exposed to different stimulation protocols. Safety and efficacy to establish potential to use in the clinic.</p> <p>Harms: Studies involve a single GA step with some objectives completed under terminal anaesthesia and some recovered to enable neurochemical effects at later time points to be investigated.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the specific objectives for the next 5 years and how the protocol steps relate to these. 	Approved subject to major revisions. To be returned to AWERB sub-committee of NVS and AWERB Chair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model choice and life stage justifications. • Repetition of protocol steps and repeated general anaesthetics and how this relates to the objectives. What proportion of animals will experience the different options? • Behavioural testing rationale and how this relates to the objectives. • Supporting statistical analysis. • greater clarity on the animal experience. • The content and level of technical detail in the non-technical summary. • Use of both sexes. • Monitoring schedules to be used and endpoints. 	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Apr22 Increase in animal numbers due to planned GAA model no longer being available. Update to adverse effect	Approved subject to training and competency observations
10.2	PPLAmend.2Apr22 Small technical modification to methodology within protocol	Approved
11	Project Licence Reviews	
11.1	Mid Term Reviews (none)	
11.2	Home Office Retrospective Reviews.	
11.2.1	(None)	
11.3	Final Reviews.	
11.3.1	PPLFinal.2Apr22 Investigations into electroconductivity of the heart within heart disease and arrhythmia Number of scientific publications Animal numbers used significantly below projected numbers due to COVID and funding not progressing as predicted No adverse effects	Approved
11.3.2	PPLFinal.3Apr22 Investigation into joint development and arthritis Amendment required due to increase in animals required for breeding due to national lockdowns.	Approved

11.3.3	<p>2 Standard Condition reports submitted due to the delivery of a compound to genetically altered animals Refinement, replacement and subsequent reduction methodologies developed, Many scientific publications produced resulting from the work</p> <p>PPLFinal.1Apr22 Neurological mechanisms that manage homeostasis and pain Significant number of publications arising from the work undertaken More mice and fewer rats used due to the development of genetically altered mice and COVID timescales Number of adverse events with measures implemented to address them including review of aseptic techniques. Number of refinements made including wireless systems for monitoring, video analysis and thermography for torpor studies.</p>	Written and displayed records and monitoring schedule required for animals going through torpor. NVS to raise this with group continuing work.
12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-9 AWERB approved: 1-6, 8, 9 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 7 AWERB did not yet approve:</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>4 – title requested 9 – include option of using the iTSN 7 – Consider if either of the current proposed models could be replaced with donated zebrafish through the iTSN? UIN application will require a full, not summary, application. If using currently proposed model, detail room designation in compliance with ASPA. Training and competency confirmation required.</p>	To be re-review by NVS and Chair
12.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 – 8 AWERB approved: 1 - 8 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>1 – Human ethical approval requirement for legacy contacts.</p>	

13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
13.1	UINAmend.1	Approved
14	AWERB Hub. (None)	
16	For Information. (None)	
17	Any Other Business.	
17.1	Crustaceans may be included in ASPA through the Animal Sentience Bill currently in progress. Researchers working under UINs may be required to apply for PPLs if the work crosses threshold.	
17.2	PhD workshop training for handling and refined administration routes still in planning phase.	
17.3	AWERB have not been provided with the ELH commissioned review of lessons learned from lockdown	To be re-requested from ASUMB.
18.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 17 th May 2022 14 th June 2022 12 th July 2022	