

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 23rd May 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 14 x members, 1 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved and submitted to ASUMB for review	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (25 th April 2023)	
3.1	3.2 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.2	3.3 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.3	3.4 University of Bristol 3Rs award.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.5 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.6 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.6	3.7 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.7	3.8 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.8	3.9 Standardised wording for grant applications and publications	Ongoing.
3.9	3.10 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.10	3.11 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.
3.11	3.12 Review of Final Review Form wording to better capture 3Rs achievements	To be discussed at June AWERB Workshop

3.12	3.13 Chair received response from ELH regarding the University's approach to Culture of Care for ensuring staff are supported.	Complete
3.13	Facilitation of working group of decapod researchers	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Advert for recruitment to ASC to be circulated	
4.2	Action started to generate co-ordination group for responses to animal issues and news events for internal and external communication that involves cross functional representation.	
4.3	Vice Chancellor response to recent celebrity letter regarding animal research.	
4.4	Discussion regarding the recent Government decisions regarding animal testing for safety of ingredients used in cosmetics.	
4.5	Decapod research governance	NVS to ensure all decapod research is covered under UIN ethical review by contacting relevant Schools.
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	
5.1	<p>PPL.1May23</p> <p>Aims: The prefrontal cortex (PFC) is part of the brain- critical for higher-order brain functions and has been implicated in a wide range of mental health disorders, including autism, depression, addiction and various affective disorders. As the brain develops, changes in PFC connectivity and function are thought to underly improvements in cognition as we pass from childhood, through adolescence, into adulthood. The period of adolescence has been proposed to be of particular importance, with many cellular and behavioural changes occurring at this time. Moreover, failure of prefrontal development has been linked to several neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs), including autism and schizophrenia. As yet we do not understand the mechanisms behind these disorders. The aim of the outlined work is to advance understanding of neuronal circuitry development within the prefrontal cortex (PFC) of the brain, a region critical to learning and memory, in health and disease.</p> <p>Benefits: Behavioural changes that occur in patients that have disorders associated with PFC dysfunction are understood, do not yet understand the cellular mechanisms causing these behavioural changes. This project aims to</p>	Not approved in current form – full re-review required. Applicant to re-attend.

	<p>address this deficit. Given autism and schizophrenia both impact around 1% of the global population, these advances have clear significance for human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Harms: Mice, head fixation, surgery, water restriction, pharmacological interventions largely moderate (70%)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of protocols • Size of implants and weight limits • Head-fixation regime and habituation • Water restriction protocol • Substance administration routes and schedule • Foot-shock strength, frequency and alternatives • Numbers of animals declared in licence • Pup rejection experience and solutions • Potential conflict instances within behavioural group tasks • Sufficiently up to date training record 	
6	Project Licences – Amendments.	
6.1	PPLAmend.1May23 Change of PPL Licence Holder	Approved
6.2	PPLAmend.2May23 Ultrasound stimulation addition to protocol	Approved subject to minor addition
7	Culture of Care Subgroup Update	
7.1	No update	
8.	3Rs Update.	
8.1	From 10 th ECR3Rs group meeting: Tamoxifen administration routes, zebrafish swabbing and the use of box sexes in experiments. Journal selected for 3Rs journal club.	
8.2	Details of upcoming 3Rs workshops across GW4	
8.3	New culture of care webinar series	

8.4	Changes to the Reginal Programme Manager structure	
9	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
9.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN 1, 2 AWERB approved: 1 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
9.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.2 – more detail required around experimental design, frequency of disturbance, source of equipment and location permissions.</p>	
9.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 4 AWERB approved: 1 - 3 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
9.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.4 – ask for PPL reference number and AWERB Chair letter from Establishment.</p>	
10	<p>Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments</p> <p>VINAmend.1 – extension request approved</p>	
11	<p>AWERB Hub. (None)</p>	
12	Any other Business	
12.1	Sentinel health screens discussion	
12.2	Discussion regarding cost recovery for specialist dissection of large animal models or tissue sharing.	

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- Consideration regarding reputational risk following future external tissue sharing – requirement for the production of scope of use ethical framework.
- Exclusion criteria for cost recovery – clarity required regarding when tissues would be freely available to internal researchers.

NC3Rs Regional Manager to meet to discuss.
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Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice):
20th June 2023
18th July 2023

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