

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 14th November 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 13 x AWERB members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved, ready for circulation to ASUMB.	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (10 th October 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 University of Bristol 3Rs award. Submission Forms drafted and reviewer candidates confirming	Ongoing.
3.4	3.5 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.6	3.6 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.7	3.7 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.8	3.8 Standardised wording for grant applications and publications	Ongoing.
3.9	3.9 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.10	3.10 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.
3.11	3.11 Facilitation of working group of decapod researchers	Ongoing.
3.12	3.12 Internal review form for work conducted under novel medical device service licence. Draft template received and some clarifications to be sought. To be re-circulated to AWERB following clarifications.	Ongoing.

3.13	3.13 Discussion should be scheduled about licences that can support more than one research group.	Ongoing.
3.14	12.2 Formalising the cost recovery routes for tissue sharing from large animal models. Involved party has been contacted	Ongoing.
3.15	8.2 Follow up discussion regarding disruption to research due to movement of lab.	Complete
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Positive feedback from previous observer.	
4.2	Launch of 3Rs Award, notice dissemination and layout of submission form and judging panel.	
4.3	Pastoral support for research staff.	
4.4	Follow-up contact regarding movement of researchers and impacts upon animal research plans.	
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	
5.1	<p>PPL.1Nov23 Aims: To determine the efficacy of therapeutic interventions for atherosclerosis and atherosclerotic aneurysms using representative mouse models (prior to progression into large animal models). Mice will be used in all studies to determine the effectiveness of immune modulating approaches upon atherosclerosis and its complications.</p> <p>Benefits: The data generated from the studies within this project will demonstrate if targeting immune cells and their products protect against atherosclerosis. If successful, this project will highlight potential therapeutic targets alongside possible biomarkers of disease progression, and therefore support their advancement into trials or safety and effectiveness assessment in large animal models.</p> <p>Harms: Mice, adverse effects described as largely moderate, they may be fed high fat diet, be administered agents such as angiotensin 2 to hasten aneurysm and treatments, may have surgery or implanted devices</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical language used in lay summary • Statistical design 	Approved subject to revisions. To be re-reviewed by sub-Committee of Chair & NVS.

5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of breeding animals required • Opportunities to introduce earlier interventions prior to endpoints • Range of adverse effects • Use of in vitro techniques • Likely animal experience <p>PPL.2Nov23</p> <p>Aims: Develop new or improved bone marrow stem cell-based therapies for patients with neurological disease, and to determine the precise ways in which bone marrow-derived cells protect and/or repair nerve cells in multiple sclerosis, genetic ataxias, and Alzheimer's disease</p> <p>Benefits: This project will help advance knowledge of the molecular and cellular processes that occur in response to nerve cell injury. It will also give insights into the protective and regenerative mechanisms of adult stem cell populations and how these processes may be manipulated to improve nerve cell repair and achieve functional recovery.</p> <p>Harms: Largely mice, with a small proportion of rats. 50% mild, 30% moderate. 20% severe</p> <p>Dosing, Surgery (cranial window, head post), non-aversive behavioural tests, whole body irradiation, EAE model which replicates multiple sclerosis</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes of administration • Upper limits for imaging routine • Head fixation experience • Habituation protocols • Dosing regimes • Use of disease models • Statistical design • Refinements developed through previous licences 	Approved subject to minor revision.
6 6.1	<p>Project Licences – Amendments.</p> <p>PPLAmend.1Nov Update to adverse effects</p>	Approved.

7	Home Office Retrospective Reviews	
7.1	PPLRR.1Nov23 No animal work was completed under the licence	Approved.
7.2	PPLRR.2Nov23 Glycocalyx and its role in health and disease. Both objectives significantly progressed but not fully met. 4 disease models used within licence. Refinements to the models were made Introduced both ex vivo and in vitro assays to reduce animals required. Feedback – well written	Approved.
8	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
8.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN.1 - 8 AWERB approved: 7, 8 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 AWERB did not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
8.1.1	UINs to note: UIN.1 – please provide a statement as to how instances of aggression may be prevented/managed. UIN.2 – please provide information as to how many sample sites will be visited. UIN.3 – please provide information on how species differences have been considered. Provide further clarity on the sourcing of the study material. Provide more context as to the scientific measurement and aims. UIN.4 – More detail required for footage management. UIN.5 – signposting to further human ethics required for the scope of the project	

	UIN.6 – Removal of references to Home Office approvals. Confirmation of intended diet. Request for update on previous feedback.	
8.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1 - 6 AWERB approved: VIN.1 -6 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
8.2.1	VINs to note: Potential clarification to be produced regarding UIN and VIN application criteria.	
9	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
9.1	UINAmend.1 – Approved VINAmend.1 – Finalised application required with small best-practice format adjustments required. VINAmend.2 – Approved VINAmend.3 – Approved VINAmend.4 – Extension, Approved	
10	AWERB Hub. (None)	
11	Any Other Business.	
11.1	Discussion regarding the process by which AWERB reviews specific licence content.	AWERB consensus that existing review mechanisms are sufficient.
11.2	Draft forms for new animal research P.Is & relocations	Approved.
11.3	Fire alarm protocols across animal units.	Follow up with Fire Safety authorities.
12	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 12 Dec 2023 16 Jan 2024 20 Feb 2024	

	19 Mar 2024 23 Apr 2024 21 May 2024 18 Jun 2024 16 Jul 2024	
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