

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 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 (19 <sup>th</sup> July 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. Two categories – science and technical. Details for nomination form drafted and prizing total approved. Chair to discuss with NIO regarding advert generation and dissemination.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.5	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		Ongoing

3.12	3.11 Facilitation of working group of decapod researchers	Ongoing
3.13	9.2 Internal review form for work conducted under novel medical device service licence. 14.1 Discussion should be scheduled about licences that can support more than one research group.	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	HOLC to schedule management meeting to discuss openness plans. Consider UAR involvement with visual exemplar material
4.1	Planned in-person meeting for December	
4.2	Correspondence with student body groups, including invitation to meet with AWERB Chair and Scientific AWERB Member.	
4.3	Update to external website with respect to Bristol AWERB's response to the ASC Report regarding the FST. Discussion regarding further openness options.	
4.4	Congratulations to ASU Staff which were nominated for staff recognition awards	
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	Approved subject to minor clarifications.
5.1	PPL.1Sept23  Aims: To develop more effective interventions (including novel therapeutic agents, stem cell and tissue engineered conduits) for the treatment of heart disease (reducing severity of restenosis) and to generate the data required to obtain approval for progression into first in human clinical trials.  Benefits: The primary output of this project will be data on the performance, safety and efficacy of novel interventions/products for the treatment of vascular diseases (e.g. novel designs of stents, grafts & valves).  Harms: The studies will be undertaken using juvenile and adult pigs and sheep as their cardiovascular system closely resembles that of humans in both structure and size. Animals will experience at least one surgery (and up to two) under general anaesthetics plus imaging. Moderate severity.  Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of antibiotics</li></ul>	

5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calculation of sample sizes</li> <li>• Medication and aftercare regime</li> <li>• Use of single sex</li> <li>• Imaging timepoints and replicates</li> <li>• Device testing prior to animal model involvement</li> </ul> <p>PPL.1May23 Resubmission</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, into adulthood. The period of adolescence has been proposed to be of particular importance, with many cellular and behavioural changes occurring at this time. 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 address this gap in knowledge. 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"> <li>• Group and effect sizes</li> <li>• Terminology around head fixation and free-movement head mounted devices</li> <li>• Scientific justification for adverse behavioural tests</li> <li>• Upper limits for water restriction, head fixation and tethering</li> <li>• Safety considerations of tethering equipment</li> <li>• Numbers and sourcing of animals</li> <li>• Intervention plans and refinements around introducing novel mice</li> <li>• Phenotypes for genetically altered animal and mouse passports</li> </ul>	Not approved in current form, required re-review by Subgroup of Chair, NVS and Sci Reviewer.
6 6.1	<p>Project Licences – Amendments.</p> <p>PPLAmend.1Sept23 Increase in animal numbers</p>	Approved

6.2	PPLAmend.2Sept23 Increase in animal numbers Request for secondary availability	Clarity required for Establishment-specific responsibilities within PPL.
7	Culture of Care Subgroup Update	
7.1	No update due to long-term <del>annual</del> leave.	
8.	3Rs Update.	
8.1	Upcoming Early Career Researcher 3Rs Group meeting agenda and future structure.	
8.2	Upcoming 3Rs symposium event.	
8.3	Review process for dipstick assessment of ARRIVE compliance underway with biostatistician.	
8.4	Initiation of a Replacement Network.	
8.5	Requested doctoral academy to have 3Rs resources like ARRIVE, the EDA and an introductory video on the 3Rs included in their online hub.	
8.6	New CRACK IT Challenges for 2023 are now open for applications.	
9	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
9.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs  Reviewed: UIN 1 - 8 AWERB approved: 1 - 8 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB did not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
9.1.1	UINs to note: (none)	
9.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.  Reviewed: VIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved: VIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications:	Secretary to inform

	AWERB not yet approved:	
9.2.1	VINs to note: (none)	
10	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments  UINAmend.1 – Approved  VINAmend.1 – Approved  VINAmend.2 – Approved	
11	AWERB Hub. (none)	
12	Any other Business	
12.1	Ethical responsibilities for applications involving animal research and artificial intelligence.	NIO and Vet Sci reviewers to amend VIN/UIN forms and webpages to signpost to AI ethics guidance.
12.2	NVS comments on observations of recent severe renal procedure.	
12.3	Discussion revisiting formalising the cost recovery routes for tissue sharing from large animal models.	NIO to follow up with relevant facility.
14.	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice): 10 Oct 2023 14 Nov 2023 12 Dec 2023 16 Jan 2024 20 Feb 2024 19 Mar 2024 23 Apr 2024	



21 May 2024  
18 Jun 2024  
16 Jul 2024

