

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, Tuesday 27th April 2021, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 10 x AWERB members, 2 x observers	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Up to date and sent on to ASU Management Board.	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (16 th March 2021)	
3.1	3.1 Formalising draft PPL application review deadlines and production of guidance documents.	Ongoing
3.2	3.2 Etiquette Document required for those wanting to sign up to the Tissue Sharing Network. User guidance documents and software layout to be present to AWERB in May meeting.	Ongoing
3.3	3.3 Structure of AWERB continues to be discussed at ASU Management Board.	Ongoing
3.4	3.4 Future AWERB auditing of techniques – will remain as ongoing action for ASU Management Board.	Ongoing
3.5	3.6 ASU to formalise enrichment piloting.	Ongoing
3.6	3.8 SOPs for monitoring for the lighting and room checks following refurbishments and/or periods of being empty. ASU confirms this SOP has been created as of November 2020	Complete
3.7	7.1 Monitoring of anaesthetic rigs set up for optimal eye health post-surgery. No further complications	Complete
3.8	8.1 Breeding facility sentinels have been sent and awaiting results. No concerns	Complete
3.9	12.1.1.1 March UIN.1 resubmission approved.	Complete
4	Chair's Report	

4.1	Small animal transport	ASU confirm current system will be able to facilitate upcoming requirements
4.2	Large animal acclimatisation - Specific acclimatisation period required for higher sentience species undergoing regulated procedures with a recovery protocol.	NVS and Senior ASU Managers to draft renewed transport policy. Interim communication to be supplied to relevant parties.
4.3	Chairs Actions – 38 observational or historical MSc project UINs approved.	
5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	270 active PILs	
5.2	New applications have increased as expected for the beginning of the charge year.	
5.3	Some revocations prior to new charge year therefore fewer PIL reviewed for this meeting.	
5.4	NVS observations progressing.	
5.5	PIL Licence Training Course scheduled for May. Planning for future courses underway.	
5.6	Upcoming 3Rs Symposium	
5.7	Training and competency records checked for all PPL and PPL Amendment applicants.	
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	NIO Reports will be transferring to new NIO Deputy. Role descriptor to be provided.	
6.2	3Rs newsletters and webinars circulated to all relevant animal user groups.	
6.3	Work on internal tissue sharing network proposal continues.	
6.4	Feedback regarding clarity and ease from academics using newer costing tool for grant applications.	

6.5	Continued positive feedback and engagement from ASU Newsletters.	
6.6	Large Animal Research Network 6 th annual meeting circulated to animal staff.	
6.7	Weekly Update emails to update ASU staff to promote CPD activities.	
6.8	Pre-Study Briefing discussions continuing.	
6.9	ASU Open Forum was held.	
6.10	Rat tickling options for ASU.	
6.11	Explore potential updated options for facilitating anonymous whistleblowing.	To be discussed at ASUMB
7	NVS Report.	
7.1	One Section 18. Technique has changed and no further problems seen. Home Office informed	Complete
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	No welfare concerns at any animal sites.	
8.2	Rodent breeding increasing slowly.	
8.3	Genotyping outsourcing is continuing smoothly.	
8.4	Pre-study briefings colour coded in relevant rooms.	
8.5	Hand over processes strengthened.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	PPL.1Apr21. Aim: To advance understanding of the mechanisms regulating platelets, addressing key clinical needs relevant to patients with bleeding disorders or recovering from heart attack.	Provide applicant with monitoring score sheet example from recent successful Licence.

	<p>Harms: The majority of animals (~70%) will be used for tissue harvesting with no procedures prior to killing. The remaining animals will have either a mild procedure (20%) or undergo surgical induction of a disease model which are at severe severity due to the involvement of cardiovascular interventions and potential for loss during surgery or shortly after recovering. Disease model itself is not associated with major deviation from normal and the endpoint precedes the development of overt signs of disease.</p> <p>Benefits: Identify new molecules and pathways involved in the regulation of platelet numbers and function, contributing to the development of new diagnostic tests and treatments for cardiovascular disease, including following a heart attack or stroke.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical application and timelines. • Protocol severity clarifications, endpoints, and refinements. • Choice of animal models • Monitoring steps following recovery protocols. • Proof-reading for typos and grammar. • Clarity required on harms statement. • GAA breeding optimisation. • Blood sampling techniques. • Adverse effects. • Sham surgery necessity 	Approved subject to changes. Revised application to be reviewed by sub-committee
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.2Dec20 Resubmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further scientific clarifications required. • NVS to liaise closely with research group for first cohort of surgeries. 	Scientific reviewer to meet with applicant and feedback to May AWERB.
10.2	PPLAmend.1Apr21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional blood sampling step 	Approved
11	Project Licence Reviews	
11.1	Mid Term Reviews.	
11.1.1	PPLMTR.1Apr.21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good progress evidenced by publications resulting from ongoing work • Refinements include optimization of tissue use 	Approved

11.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unexpected adverse effects <p>PPLMTR.2Apr21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No animal work has commenced 	Approved
11.1.3	<p>PPLMTR.3Apr21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within target for animal numbers No unexpected adverse effects 	Approved
11.2	Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)	
11.3	Final Reviews.	
11.3.1	<p>PPLFR.1Apr21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No unexpected adverse effects Extensive publication record resulting from project Reduction of predicted animal numbers through in vitro developments 	Approved
12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-3 AWERB approved: UIN.1 & 2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: UIN.3 AWERB did not yet approve:</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	UINs to note: (None)	
12.1.1.1	<p>UIN.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity required on whether food and water will be provided in the traps. Trapping should be managed to also avoid high temperatures. AWERB require a copy of licence from Natural England. NVS will discuss best Schedule 1 method to use and confirm training and competency. 	
12.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 & 2 AWERB approved: VIN.1</p>	Secretary to inform

	AWERB approved pending clarifications: VIN.2 AWERB did not yet approved: None.	
12.2.1	VINs to note:	
12.2.1.1	VIN.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All consent paperwork must be written on headed paper, with a dated signature and appropriate contacts. Confirm that only clinically relevant blood samples are being obtained with surplus blood used for research for control samples as well as disease population. 	
13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
13.1	UIN.Amend.1	Approved
14	AWERB Hub.	
14.1	Standards at overseas CRO	
14.2	North American 3Rs rodent health survey	
15	Early Career Researchers 3Rs Group	
15.1	ECR 3Rs Group Terms of Reference updated to report directly to AWERB. Group expressed interest in development of database for training. Members surveyed. Co-Chair vacancy.	AWERB positive about implementing ideas to support.
16	For Information. (None)	
17	Any Other Business.	
17.1	Rodent Handling Poster	Approved
18.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): Tuesday 15th June 2021 Tuesday 20th July 2021	