

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: x 12 committee members	
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 <sup>th</sup> November 2021)	
3.1	3.2 External AWERB Chair position has been advertised.	Ongoing
3.2	3.3 Biostatistician requirement discussed further at ASUMB.	Ongoing
3.3	6-month revisit to acclimatisation policy for large animals – covered in NACWO Report	Complete
3.4	November VIN 3 clarifications received and approved.	Complete
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Discussion regarding external Chair advert. Members further reflected on the achievements, quality improvements and positive changes achieved by AWERB over recent years and serious concerns were raised about how changes to the AWERB structure could lead to a loss of key expertise. Members highlight a high risk involved with this change. Majority of attending members agreed to invite ELH to next AWERB meeting.	Chair and secretary to contact ELH
5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	Training and Competency monthly review discussed.	
5.2	Awaiting dates for 2022 PIL Training Course from central timetabling.	

5.3	Online Study Plans to be rolled out in 2022 to replace paper based PSBs. Discussion on likely processes and planned inclusion of initial techniques checklist to be included at the AWERB PPL Review stage.	Ongoing
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	Selection of relevant upcoming newsletters and CPD opportunities circulated to relevant stakeholders.	
6.2	New content available on ASU Intranet	
6.3	Deputy NIO has joined a new network to stay abreast of any relevant new communication tools.	
6.4	Begun search for candidates to refresh external website profiles.	
6.5	Plans for next Newsletter.	
7	NVS Report.	
7.1	Four Standard Condition 18 reports have been filed, all due to genetic history of animals involved. NVS has contacted external bodies with requests for greater clarity regarding the new reporting guidelines.	Ongoing
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	No welfare concerns.	
8.2	Breeding is progressing well following recent relocation.	
8.3	New staff undergoing training.	
8.4	Large animal acclimatisation policy has been successful across the 6-month monitoring period. There are no further concerns.	Complete
8.5	Discussion of the water errors AWERB workshop outcomes and the options for implementation of change.	Complete
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	PPL.1Nov21 Resubmission	

9.2	<p>Aims: To use animal models and complementary neuroscientific techniques to understand the role of astrocyte lactate signalling in regulating brain functions and behaviour in health and disease including identifying the molecular and cellular mechanisms through which lactate works.</p> <p>Benefits: Fundamental biology project investigating an important and understudied area of neuroscience. Glial cells represent a substantial number of the cells in the brain but there is little known about how they contribute to brain function. This project will advance this core understanding focusing on lactate, a substance secreted from astrocytes.</p> <p>Harms: Moderate models including a GAA line with a harmful mutation. Some studies proposed will expose animals to acute or chronic stressors which are mild but will have cumulative effects.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring</li> <li>• Much improved application</li> </ul> <p>PPL.1Sep21 Resubmission</p> <p>Aims: To investigate the physiology of the heart in response to pathological states and identification of novel targets for intervention.</p> <p>Benefits: Fundamental knowledge relating to cardiac physiology during remodelling and potential targets for new drug treatments.</p> <p>Costs: Mixture of moderate and severe procedures including generation of a cardiac overload model with long-term follow-up including efficacy studies of novel interventions.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essential controls</li> <li>• Duration of restraint</li> <li>• Habituation</li> <li>• Missing experimental design questions</li> <li>• Monitoring</li> </ul>	<p>Approved subject to minor changes.</p> <p>Missing section to be re-reviewed by Chair and NVS. Approved pending this review and subject to minor changes.</p>
10	<p>Project Licences – Amendments.</p> <p>10.1 PPLAmend.1Dec21 Addition of second species to a protocol Update to the scientific context of the research Additional clarification of optional protocol steps</p> <p>10.2 PPLAmend.2Dec21 • Change to restriction protocol</p>	<p>Approved subject to clarifications</p> <p>Approved subject to clarifications. Request</p>

10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update to adverse effects</li> </ul> <p>PPLAmend.3Dec21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional behavioural test</li> <li>Update to adverse effects</li> <li>Inclusion of blood sampling within protocol</li> </ul>	<p>annual updates to AWERB regarding use of restriction protocol.</p> <p>Not approved in current form.</p>
10.4	<p>PPLAmend.3Dec21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update to the adverse effects</li> <li>Update to the proportion of animals allocated to protocols</li> <li>Additional motor coordination task</li> <li>Reduction in time between behavioural tasks</li> <li>Update to administration routes</li> <li>Craniotomy with the introduction of optical probes</li> </ul>	<p>Not approved in current form.</p>
11 11.1	<p>Project Licence Reviews Mid Term Reviews.</p>	
11.1.1	<p>MTR.1Nov – Understanding the role of a specific tissue in health and disease, with the application of new therapeutic strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse effects.</li> <li>Section 18 reports.</li> <li>Effort shown to reduce and refine protocols in PPL.</li> <li>Several publications produced.</li> <li>Active group with work progressing well.</li> </ul>	<p>Approved</p>
11.1.2	<p>MTR.2Nov – Social interactions and pain relief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No work undertaken at time of writing due to COVID-19 pandemic disruption.</li> <li>Funding application underway.</li> </ul>	<p>Approved</p>
11.2	<p>Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)</p>	
11.3 11.3.1	<p>Final Reviews. (None)</p>	

12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: 1 - 5  AWERB approved: 2, 4, 5  AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1  AWERB did not yet approve: 3</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>1 – clarify no living animals required.</p> <p>3 – Not possible to be covered by a UIN.</p>	
12.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 9  AWERB approved: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9  AWERB approved pending clarifications: 7, 5  AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	VINs to note:	
12.2.1.1	5 – Clarify aesthetic changes in consent form.	
12.2.1.2	7 – Changes to experimental design.	
13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
14	AWERB Hub. (None)	
16	For Information. (None)	
17 17.1	Any Other Business. Dates for 2022 – move to Tuesday	

17.2	Planned resumption of supplementary Animal Welfare Meetings.	Secretary to schedule Spring 2022
18.	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice): 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2022 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	