

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

**Minutes: 1:30pm, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Online meeting**

|     | Items.   | AWERB Outcome |
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| 1   | Attendance: 10 X Committee members   |               |
| 2   | Minutes of the last meeting.   |               |
| 2.1 | Approved and finalised for ASUMB.  | Ongoing       |
| 3   | Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022)  |               |
| 3.1 | 3.1 Appointment of external Chair is pending, with transitional period discussed.  | Ongoing       |
| 3.2 | 3.2 Biostatistician role continues to be discussed at ASUMB. AWERB Committee notes the importance of this role being held by a nominated individual. | Ongoing       |
| 3.3 | 3.3 Progress and plans of the Online Study Plans.  | Ongoing       |
| 3.4 | 3.4 NVS is awaiting feedback regarding the new reporting guidelines for Standard Condition 18 reports.   | Ongoing       |
| 3.5 | 3.5 SOP survey has been extended due to changes in Home Office audit timelines   | Ongoing       |
| 3.6 | 3.6 Procurement workshop regarding outsourcing breeding  | Ongoing       |
| 3.7 | 17.1 Employment requirements of PPL holders  | Ongoing       |
| 3.8 | Recruitment of lay membership to AWERB continues to be discussed at ASUMB  | Ongoing       |
| 4   | Chair's Report   |               |
| 4.1 | Upcoming presentation to the University's Ethics Committee.  |               |
| 4.2 | Upcoming meeting with elected official and animal rights group regarding behavioural tests used at the University.                                   |               |

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| 5   | NTCO Report.  |  |
| 5.1 | Training and Competency monthly review discussed.   |  |
| 5.2 | PIL Revocation reminders sent   |  |
| 5.3 | A centralised list of trainers is under construction, with the call included in the Early Career Researchers 3Rs meeting.   | NTCO to request addition to Open Forum |
| 6   | NIO Report.   |  |
| 6.1 | Relevant webinars and 3Rs information circulated to stakeholders.   |  |
| 6.2 | Updates from Home Office regarding the Animals in Science Regulatory Reform Program.  |  |
| 7   | NVS Report.   |  |
| 7.1 | One standard 18 report submitted to HO – awaiting feedback  |  |
| 7.2 | Amendment expected following adverse effect from a PPL.   |  |
| 8   | NACWO reports.  |  |
| 8.1 | No welfare concerns.  |  |
| 9   | Project Licences – New Applications.  |  |
| 9.1 | <p>PPL.1Feb22 Resubmission Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinements implemented into new application</li> <li>• Choice of stressors further discussed including pilot studies for refinement comparisons</li> </ul> | Approved subject to minor changes      |

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| 9.2 | <p>PPL.1Mar22</p> <p>Aims: To facilitate the testing of developments in a novel drug delivery system and to evaluation the safety and efficacy of drugs administered using this technology for the treatment of neurological diseases, including brain tumours.</p> <p>Benefits: Preclinical data to support the clinical use of a new drug delivery system. Potential to impact on the treatment of a range of brain disorders for which current treatments are limited</p> <p>Harms: Recovery surgical interventions with potential for AE associated with implants and prolonged general anaesthesia.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice of model species</li> <li>• Adverse effects</li> <li>• Sample sizes</li> <li>• Governance routes for contract research</li> <li>• Sex ratios</li> </ul>   | <p>Approved subject to minor changes</p> <p>To be discussed at ASUMB - governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.</p> |
| 9.3 | <p>PPL.2Mar22</p> <p>Aims: This project aims to define how early life adversity and adolescent alcohol consumption alter brain function to increase the likelihood of alcohol addiction in adulthood. The secondary aim is to test drugs with the potential to treat alcohol addiction.</p> <p>Benefits: Fundamental understanding of brain mechanisms which underlie adult emotional and addictive behaviour and how these are related to the early life environment. Some early characterisaion of potential drug target with implications in the long-term for new treatments.</p> <p>Harms: Long-term studies involving repeated procedural steps necessary to replicate the types of early life events linked to an increased risk of adult mental health disorders. Assessment of the arising phenotype requires the use of potentially stressful tests and treatment with substances to assess underlying neurobiology. Animals may undergo recovery surgery to enable implantation of devices to record brain activity or generate targeted manipulations.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rationale for choice of model and time scales used for separation</li> <li>• Age limits to procedures</li> </ul> | <p>Approved subject to changes. Returned application to be re-reviewed by Chair and Sci reviewer.</p>  |

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|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper limits and cumulative experience for repeated steps</li> <li>• Housing and husbandry</li> <li>• Playpens and enrichment opportunities</li> <li>• Endpoints</li> <li>• Routes of administration</li> </ul>   |                                   |
| 10     | Project Licences – Amendments.   |                                   |
| 10.1   | PPLAmend.1Mar22<br>Update to adverse effects.  | Approved                          |
| 11     | Project Licence Reviews  |                                   |
| 11.1   | Mid Term Review<br><br>PPL.MTR.1Mar 22<br>Investigations into potential leukaemia treatments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant progress made on main objectives</li> <li>• SC 18s submitted to HO have required no further action</li> <li>• Refinements include an increase in habituation periods and use of refined handling techniques</li> <li>• Several publications have arisen from work carried out</li> <li>• Further funding secured.</li> </ul>  | Approved subject to minor changes |
| 11.2   | PPL.MTR.2Mar 22<br>Advancing the understand of neurophysiology mechanisms behind learning and memory. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal numbers and study timeline effected by COVID and change in model availability</li> <li>• SC18 reports submitted due to unexpected adverse event associated with a genetic models used.</li> <li>• Refinements include the use of a within-study design and increase in the range of enrichment provided</li> <li>• Several publications have arisen from work carried out</li> </ul> | Approved                          |
| 11.2   | Home Office Retrospective Reviews.   |                                   |
| 11.2.1 | (None)   |                                   |
| 11.3   | Final Reviews.   |                                   |
| 11.3.1 | (None)   |                                   |
| 12     | Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.   |                                   |

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| 12.1   | <p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-6<br/> AWERB approved: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6<br/> AWERB approved pending clarifications:<br/> AWERB did not yet approve:</p>   | Secretary to inform |
| 12.1.1 | <p>UINs to note:</p> <p>Additional UIN received for meeting presented by NVS</p>  | Approved            |
| 12.2   | <p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 6<br/> AWERB approved: 1, 2,<br/> AWERB approved pending clarifications: 3, 4, 5, 6<br/> AWERB not yet approved:</p>   | Secretary to inform |
| 12.2.1 | <p>VINs to note:</p> <p>5 – Removal of a question with the questionnaire.</p> <p>3 – Ensure the security of research materials.</p> <p>4 – Understand the case-report nature of study.</p> <p>6 – Ensure robust study design.</p> |                     |
| 13     | Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments   |                     |
| 13.1   | UINAmend.1 – 9 month extension requested  | Approved            |
| 14     | AWERB Hub.<br>(None)  |                     |
| 15     | For Information.<br>(None)  |                     |

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| 16   | Any Other Business.  |   |
| 16.1 | Ethical approval process for surgical training using donated cadavers.   | ASU to consider and produce drafts of template UIN. |
| 17.  | <b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice):<br>26 <sup>th</sup> April 2022<br>17 <sup>th</sup> May 2022<br>14 <sup>th</sup> June 2022<br>12 <sup>th</sup> June 2022 |   |