

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 16th November 2021, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 x 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 (12 th October 2021)	
3.1	3.1 Formalising draft PPL application review deadlines and production of guidance documents – document now available on ASU Intranet	Complete
3.2	3.3 Structure of AWERB continues to be discussed at ASU Management Board (ASUMB)	Ongoing
3.3	4.1 Biostatistician expectation highlighted – to remain on Matters Arising.	Ongoing
3.4	8.2 Lessons Learnt exercise requested – to be ready for Feb 2022 AWERB	Revisit in Feb 2022
3.5	Sept 21 VIN.4 – clarifications received and approved.	Complete
3.6	Sept 21 VIN.2 Further communications with applicant. Advised regarding pilot study	Complete
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Official welcome to new Scientific Members	
4.2	Lay membership recruitment ongoing	
4.3	AWERB water provision workshop held, contributions reported to ASUMB.	
4.4	Internal CPD events encouraged by AWERB	

5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	Thanks to AWERB Chair for support re internal CPD events	
5.2	T & C monthly report discussed	
5.3	Positive responses from researchers regarding reminders update their training records	
5.4	Three courses delivered since Sept 2021, looking to confirm 2022 dates soon	
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	Selection of relevant upcoming newsletters and CPD opportunities circulated to relevant stakeholders.	
6.2	Newsletter circulated and reader analytics discussed.	
6.3	New content available on ASU Intranet.	
6.4	Recent researcher and staff surveys discussed at community engagement event.	
7	NVS Report.	
7.1	One Standard Condition 18 – triggered by new ASRU adverse effect reporting advise. Appropriate amendment will be applied for.	
7.2	ASU Service Licence had been returned and resubmitted to the Home Office.	
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	New urine collection system developed for large animal studies.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	PPL.1Nov21 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.	Re-review at December AWERB. No attendance required.

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.

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.

Discussion:

- Severity classification
- Scope of project aims
- Numbers of animals
- Likely animal experience
- Monitoring and housing
- Relationship between planned in vivo versus ex vivo/ in vitro work
- Biological validity of the selected models
- Rational of GAA animal model
- Behavioural testing regime

PPL.2Nov21

Aims: To use objective measures of affective state to assess potential refinements to commonly used housing and husbandry procedures.

Benefits: Empirical evidence to support implementation of changes to housing and/or husbandry methods which will benefit animal welfare based on their impacts on the affective experience of the animal.

Harms: Studies will include exposing animals to both acute and chronic manipulations which could induce a relatively more negative affective state. Animals may experience housing or husbandry procedures which are hypothesised to improve welfare compared with different standard control conditions. Testing of the consequences of these manipulations may include short term exposure to stressful conditions.

Discussion:

- Severity limits
- Housing
- Cumulative experience
- Behavioural measures

Approved subject to
clarifications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for rehoming <p>PPL.3Nov21 Aims: To investigate the neurobiological and neuropsychological mechanisms which control cognitive and emotional behaviour and their modulation by antidepressant drugs.</p> <p>Benefits: Fundamental biology project which will generate new knowledge relating to behaviours relevant to psychiatric disorders. Short term outcomes will benefit the academic community with medium to long term benefits arising from the identification of novel drug targets. Studies focusing on psychological and social mechanisms may generate more immediate benefits.</p> <p>Harms: Studies will include exposing animals to both acute and chronic manipulations which could induce a negative affective state including using models of depression. Some animals will experience aversive training methods and prolonged periods of repeated substance administration. A proportion of animals will also require surgical interventions to enable integration of behavioural and neuroscientific methods.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressors Monitoring schedule Restriction protocol organisation Bias avoidance and random factors Sham surgery Recovery durations 	Approved subject to clarifications
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Nov21. Clarification of use of anaesthetic during imaging.	Approved subject to clarifications
11	Project Licence Reviews	
11.1	Mid Term Reviews.	
11.1.1	MTR.1Nov	Postponed to Dec AWERB
11.1.2	MTR.2Nov	Postponed to Dec AWERB

11.2	Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)	
11.3 11.3.1	Final Reviews. (None)	
12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN.1-6 AWERB approved: 4, 5, 6, 3, 1, 2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: None AWERB did not yet approve: None	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	UINs to note: (None)	
12.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1-5 AWERB approved: 1, 4 & 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2, 3 AWERB not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	VINs to note:	
12.2.1.1	VIN.2 Resubmission of consent form required.	
12.2.1.2	VIN.3 Wording of contact templates.	
13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
13.1	VINAmend.1 – Approved VINAmend.2 - Approved UINAmend.1 – Approved	
14	AWERB Hub. (None)	
16	For Information. (None)	

17	Any Other Business. (None)	
18.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): 14 th December 2021	