

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act

1986 Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 26/2/19

1. Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
2. Attendance and Apologies– please see separate sheet
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 29/1/19: Approved

4. Matters arising and action point summary

- **AWERB visibility:** the inclusion of minutes and AWERB member descriptions on our website was discussed with no objections raised. Action *ongoing*: to discuss with PEL holder.
- **New licencing system:** New licencing system will be in place for August 2019. Further information to be detailed at the ASRU meeting on the 8th April. Action *ongoing*: HOLC to update committee of further progress in April

5. Named person updates

Tunnel handling (NTCO/NVS):

The committee were updated on recent progress with the adoption of tunnel handling at the University; a summary of the main points of the presentation are detailed below.

- Background: Hurst *et al* 2010 demonstrated that tail handling is aversive to rodents suggesting that alternatives should be considered, for example tunnel handling.
- Tunnel handling is an area of focus for the Home Office in partnership with the NC3Rs.
- Implementation is ongoing at the University: trialling with technicians, visiting other facilities to see technique in action.
- Considerations include: strain of mouse (some adapt more quickly) and familiarisation with tunnel (it can take up to 4 attempts to get the technique to work successfully).
- Tail handling is still required and allowed for certain techniques. Training will be introduced through Scotpil for new Personal Licence Holders. Alternatives less aversive methods may also be used including cupping

NACWO update :

- Expanded food replaced with pellets at
- No further breeding of WT mice at the animals will be sourced from in future or from external sources. This represents a significant step forward in reducing animal usage.

6. a. Project licence review

PL05-19: This project licence is from a very experienced group leader and aims to consider the role of gene regulation specifically in reference to RNA metabolism and effects when this process goes wrong. The licence covers two species and is a complicated application. In summary the committee felt that the licence was overly complex and covered too many areas of research. It was agreed that a revised licence, following discussion with the inspectorate, should be considered particularly given the timescale for the renewal:

A summary of the main points are detailed below:

- **General points:** The licence needs to be significantly shorter and would benefit from general editing/proof reading. For example section D is almost 4 times as long as required.
- **Breeding and maintenance:** this needs to be the standard breeding and maintenance protocol and not include additional steps for example modulation of transgenes.
- **Project plan:** there is no justification of non-schedule 1 techniques in the project plan.
- **Protocols:** contain too many optional steps and there is no "typical" or "maximal" examples given.
- **Neonatal work:** some approaches require refinement for example fate of animals following procedures.
- **Experimental protocols:** at present the licence includes breeding of animals within experimental protocols and also movement of animals (experimental) between protocols which will not be permitted and should be revised.
- **Transport of animals:** clarify the requirement to move experimental animals under procedure to another establishment for histopathology, why can tissues not be obtained here?. If this is necessary a robust justification will be required.
- **Tail tipping in neonates:** what is the rationale for this, this needs to be further justified as is currently unclear.
- **Humane endpoints:** protocols 6 and 11 have unclear endpoints which require revision.

Amendments requiring full AWERB approval

A20-19: late project licence amendment submitted to the committee. **Approved**

This amendment request is to allow measurement of tumour associated macrophage inhibition in various studies. This process takes time to develop. Data was presented to the committee, which would also be made available to the Home Office justifying the requirement to develop tumours to a more advanced stage.

Amendment applications submitted to the sub-committee

Approved: A57-18, A59 -18, A01-19, A03-19, A04-19

6. AWERB visibility:

The committee discussed the option of putting AWERB minutes onto our website to which there were no objections. The option to describe current membership and roles within the AWERB on the website was also discussed and again no objections were raised.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/2/19

7. Overseas research: OS5-19 approved.

8. A.O.C.B:

Relevant points detailed in the action summary.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 26th March 2019 9.30am Seminar Room