

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 26/3/19

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 26/2/19:** 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:** [REDACTED] to discuss with PEL holder, awaiting final response.
- **Reproducibility workshop:** it was noted that this will be hosted by the [REDACTED] in October.

5. Press Officer/Lay person update:

- **Science festival:** Saturday 6th April: event (with funding from the MRC) at the Pleasance to demonstrate the 3Rs at the University involving a number of scientists.
- **Press office intern:** An intern has been recruited to the press office and will work on producing materials to be used in Openness events.
- **Concordat for openness:** it was noted that new system of “grading” for establishments will be introduced. This is a tiered approach with “leaders in openness” to be awarded to establishments- self nominating.
- **Virtual tours of animal facilities:** there were discussions on how this could be best implemented. There may be opportunities for virtual tours to be created within a new facility and then published to our web site.

6. Named person update

NACWO update : [REDACTED]

- **Cage wash robot** has been introduced which can scrape cages potentially reducing repetitive strain injuries and exposure to LAAs. This robot can also reduce the wastage of bedding and presents cages to the autoclave.
 - **Facility is now completely IVC,** no open top caging. This could be very helpful in terms of exposure to LAAs
 - **Robot cost:** benefits outweigh the cost, has reduced significantly rodent smell from caging.
 - **Robot is unlikely to replace staff,** but gives the opportunity to utilise staff in different ways.
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6. a. Project licence review

PL06-19: This project licence is from an experienced group leader and aims to look at synapse function in health and disease. There were a number of revisions required to this licence before submission to the Home Office could be considered and it was agreed to re-circulate this to the AWERB for further approval.

A summary of the main points are detailed below:

- General structure of PPL: Most information appears to be within the protocols, instead of within the project plan and background section, this needs revision. More detailed justification of the techniques and specific models is required within the project plan.
- Non-technical summary: it was noted that this was well written and no revisions required. no issues here.
- The proposed epilepsy models should be reviewed in terms of severity
- Sleep deprivation models: no detailed justification has been given for these models and this requires much greater detail and explanation of why this is required
- Protocols section: as described the major issue in this section is the amount of information that should be relocated to other sections (project plan/background).
- Licence has been completely re-drafted but in doing so important detail has been missed. The PPL applicant should be directed back to the annotated project licence example for guidance.
- Objectives: these have been well written in general and the PPL applicant should be encouraged to use these to drive the project plan.

PL7-19 This project licence is from an experienced group leader and aims to understand germ cell development and the influence of environmental issues such as exposure to toxins. The committee were happy to approve the application subject to the consideration of the points detailed below

A summary of the main points are detailed below:

- Project plan: it was noted that although brief this is concise and well written and should not require revision.
- Funding: more details on the level of funding for the project is required.
- Purpose section D: Check the selection of tick boxes in the project plan section.
- Protocol 2: check the severity of the protocol, should this be moderate? Some clarification/justification required.
- Protocol 3 check whether this should be a non-recovery protocol (currently mild).
- Protocol 1 clarify whether a separate protocol is required. Perhaps this could be combined with another protocol to include the option for non-schedule 1 techniques.

Amendments requiring full AWERB approval

A23-19: additional availability application at another UK Establishment. **Approved**

Amendment applications submitted to the sub-committee

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/3/19

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

7. 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.

8. Overseas research: OS6-19 approved.

- No issues raised.

9. A.O.C.B:

- A video of the robot was demonstrated to the committee.

Relevant points detailed in the action summary.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 30th April 2019 9.30am Seminar Room