

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

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 30/4/19

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 26/3/19:** Approved
4. **Scientific presentation:** a summary of the work of a renewal PPL application was given to the committee.

5. Matters arising and action point summary

- **Reproducibility workshop:** it was noted that this will be hosted by the University in October 2019. *Action ongoing*
- **Science festival:** Saturday 6th April: event (with funding from the MRC) at the Pleasance to demonstrate the 3Rs at the University. Noted that this was very well received and feedback very positive. *Action complete*
- **Local action on non-compliance and animal welfare:** This was discussed by the committee (point 9) and agreed to invite in the first instance scientific members of AWERB to join an AWERB sub-committee: *Action: ongoing : to disseminate information to relevant members*
- **NC3Rs board members:** the AWERB were made aware of opportunities to join the NC3R board *Action: complete*

6. Named person update

NVS update:

- The NVS gave an animal facility and compliance update. There will be a zebrafish welfare assessment project carried out by a vet student in the next few weeks..

NACWO update :LF1/LF2

- The NACWO gave a facility update and reported back on the recent IAT congress, rolling out tunnel handling and the development of aseptic workshops which have been well received.

NTCO update

The NTCO gave a facilities and general trainers update. Current areas being addressed include tunnel handling, single needle use and Schedule 1 8. a. **Project licence review**

PL06-19: This project licence was re-presented to the committee following previous AWERB consideration where it was agreed to re-circulate this to the AWERB for further approval owing to a poor quality application. The committee and review panel agreed that the application had been

sufficiently improved and was ethically justified and any further revisions would be agreed with the NVS.

A summary of the main points are detailed below:

- Poor justification for behavioural tests remain. This requires revision before submission to the home office.
- Objectives are much improved but still require some revision in terms of clarity.
- Within the project plan some areas still require improved justification for example the sleep deprivation model.
- Further justification required on the use of certain GA lines before submission to the home office is required.

PL12-19 This project licence is from an experienced group leader and aims to understand the process involved in the metastatic spread of reproductive cancers. It was noted that this licence renewal was of high quality with minimal changes required before application submission.

The licence was approved subject to revision of the points detailed below:

- **NTS:** it was noted that the numbers detailed were incorrect and require revision in this section.
- **Refinement:** the applicant should consider including intra-caudal artery injection as an alternative to more invasive methods of injection
- **Flowcharts:** need to clarify what individual animals will experience, for example give details of minimal and maximal procedures.
- **Endpoints:** need to be more defined with clear endpoints.
- **Primary tumour resection:** clarify when this is specifically required. An improved scientific justification is required for the use of this technique.
- **Licence holder:** it was noted that the current PPL is a very senior academic and going forward an appropriate PI may be considered to take this licence over if relevant.

Amendments requiring full AWERB approval

A24-19: additional availability application at AWERB, external establishment. **Approved**

Amendment applications submitted to the sub-committee

A20-19, A23-19, A25-19, A26,19, A27-19: approved

7. Discussion on local issues of non-compliance and welfare

The committee discussed how best to communicate issues of potential non-compliance/non-compliance to the AWERB where incidents have occurred. In addition, the subject of issuing local disciplinary advice (separate to that issued from the home office) was raised.

A summary of discussion points are noted below:

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- The committee discussed ideas for how to deal with issues that have occurred; for example an AWERB sub-committee or a process where we issue local disciplinary advice etc.
 - The committee also discussed the use of an investigation process in cases of non-compliance/welfare and if so who should do this?
 - Other issues included what should happen if actions would constitute a wilful act of cruelty.
 - It was suggested that a sub-committee panel could include scientists/licence holders, HR representatives, PEL holder(or delegate).
8. AOCB: It was noted that new board members for the NC3Rs are required which may be of interest to some AWERB members.
9. Relevant points detailed in the action summary.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 28th May 2019 9.30am Seminar Room