



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 27/04/2021

The University of Edinburgh

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

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 27/04/20201

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending, the recent roadshows were commended by the Chair
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd March 2021:** *approved*
 3. **Scientific Presentation:** the committee heard a very interesting presentation on [REDACTED] in relation to a proposed PPL amendment.
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4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **Non-compliance investigations:** noted that following a non-compliance investigation we will have an additional AWERB meeting to specifically review management of unused Personal Licences and requirements for retraining
5. **Named person and Director updates**

Directors update:

- **Researcher meetings:** Two refresher meetings held specifically for PIs at [REDACTED] have been held to run through legislative and local requirements, particularly in external rooms.
- **World action for laboratory animals day:** some social media activity but no protests at the University, noted that we were very grateful for those researchers alerting us to activity on social media.
- **NACWO training:** a meeting will be held 26/4/2021 to cover NACWO training and other general issues.
- **Additional AWERB:** this will cover issues related to training and personal licences.
- **Student member:** we have a student employed for 8 weeks to work on NTS's and the website (see risk meeting discussion)
- **PIs without PPLs:** noted the challenges of PIs working under other people's PPLs and that this continues to be a difficult balance.

Deputy Directors update:

- [REDACTED]: some issues with humidity in BRF, humidifiers have been brought in and estates are working on a solution .
- [REDACTED]: roof repairs underway
- [REDACTED]: lighting timers and fixtures have been updated
- **Access to facilities** the review of this is almost complete to ensure compliance with H and S.
- **Shielders:** now returned to work which is great news. Noted that they may be anxious so measures being put in place to reassure staff.
- **Air handling unit refit in [REDACTED]:** all went well in terms of installation, just awaiting final sign off for this.



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- **Irradiated diet:** some issues in obtaining this, looking at alternative options such as autoclaved diet.

NVS update

- **Post surgery issues:** some issues with wound infections in some facilities. To address this all facilities will undergo a deep clean
- **Health Screens:** awaiting the results from recent screens for Helicobacter.
- **LPS studies:** condition 18 report has been submitted due to some adverse effects following i.p. administration of LPS.
- **Tamoxifen:** condition 18 report to be submitted following unexpected deaths with tamoxifen administration i.p. Consider whether i.p. administration of tamoxifen should be permitted when less invasive methods such as gavage are available. Agree needs more enforcement and could a researcher who has made the move from IP to oral make positive representation
- **Single use needle survey:** 83 responses have been received on this. Responses will be discussed at the 3Rs meeting in June.

NACWO update:

- **Presentation on [REDACTED]:** the committee heard a presentation on a number of ongoing issues at the [REDACTED] building related to external building problems. It was noted that the facility manager has done an excellent job in addressing these issues and a number of improvements have been made

NTCO update:

- **Full updates will be given at the meeting on the 11th May**

6. Project licences under consideration:

PL09-2021: Approved subject to comments

This is from a very experienced and senior researcher who is also a clinician. The licence focuses on a [REDACTED]. The committee felt that the licence was scientifically valid and covered an important area of research. Outputs from the previous licence have been very positive and have led to work on clinical trials.

Summary: The review of the licence highlighted a number of points detailed below which should be addressed before the application can be submitted to the home office.

- **Grammar:** The application has a high number of spelling and grammar mistakes throughout which disrupts the flow of the application.
- **Use of human glial tissue:** this was highlighted as potential area of concern in terms of ethical and reputational issues. It was noted that the use of this tissue is already approved and included within the current PPL however the applicant should consider if this work is required on the new licence.



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- **PPL holder:** consider that it might be more appropriate for another member of the group to hold this licence as the current PPL holder holds an extremely senior position and is very busy.
- **NTS:** some identifiers are included in the PPL these must be removed before submission.
- **Protocols:** the applicant must consider that those protocols unlikely to be used within the next 2 years should be removed, these can be easily reactivated within the Aspel system going forward by way of an amendment.
- **Formatting:** in places VSS is detailed instead of BVS and outdated terms such as 19b or AB-G are used throughout consistent with copying and pasting.
- **Local guidelines** are not consistently referenced, for example frequency of administration or Guidelines on blood sampling
- **Humane endpoints and refinements:** work is required to update humane endpoints with current refinements, these have not been updated since the previous PPL.
- **Action plan:** this has not been updated from the previous PPL to reflect scientific progress. Clearer descriptions of how the objectives relate to each other is required.
- **Adverse effects:** some of these are missing for example those related to tumour growth.

7. **a. Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:**

A22-21: approved subject to revision of below comments

- Techniques and training: ensure that experience in the techniques as detailed by the applicant is correct.
- Models: Further justification of the hypertension models and MI models is required within the application as this was not included in enough detail.

A23-21: approved subject to revision of below comments

- Consider if Electronic von frey testing is the most refined technique in terms of required behavioural tests.
- Blinding of experimental groups should be performed so as not to compromise data and waste animals.
- The stress models described in Protocol 10 are still quite vaguely described and could appear as a "random" application of stressors. The applicant could refer to published protocols or set a certain limit
- The second protocol has no indication of frequency of exposure

A25-21: approved subject to revision of below comments

- Some confusion over the numbering of the new protocol, detailed as protocol 13 where it should be protocol number 5.
- Protocol 5: it would be better to have Step 4 as the first step as this is the main aim of the Protocol and the only mandatory step.
- Weight loss: there is some discrepancy between humane endpoints which are given at both 20 and 30% this should be clarified.
- Request that feedback from the PPL holder is given to the AWERB once the first studies (detailed within the amendment) have been completed.

PPL transfer:: approved



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8. **Risk review: The committee were updated on the 3 areas for development following the recent meeting with the home office, PEL holder and BVS director. These areas for development are summarised below and further updates on the development of these areas will be given in due course.**
 1. AWERB visibility
 2. Severe experimental protocols and review of these procedures.
Further development of openness Strategy
9. **Culture of Care: postponed till 25/5/21**
10. **Overseas research: OS2-21 and OS3-21: both approved.**
11. **Retrospective review: include references to the review (a number of important publications have been published during the previous licence), include clearer details about the scoring system used and the important benefits and refinements of this system as this was not clear.**
12. **A.O.C.B: none**

Date of next Meeting: 25th May 2021 10am MS teams