



## Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 2/6/2020

The University of Edinburgh

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

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Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 05/05/2020

Microsoft teams

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1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending, particularly during current times.
  2. **Attendance and Apologies**– please see separate sheet
  3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 05/05/20: approved**
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#### 4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **AWERB video:** volunteers requested to put together an online video about the AWERB with clips of key roles within the AWERB and relevant contributions to this process. Volunteers have been identified and advice on video preparation circulated: **Action: ongoing** [redacted] /AWERB video clips to be submitted.

#### 5. **Named person and director updates**

**Directors/Deputy Directors update:** this focused on the Covid-19 outbreak and the impact on facilities.

- **Staffing:** morale is very good in facilities, staffing is constant with no issues have been reported. A number of emails and other communications have been sent out to keep staff updated.
- **Wild-Types:** currently preparing a new pricing and ordering strategy for researchers.
- **Facilities:** all running well no major issues and still progressing with planned mergers.
- **Return to Exp work:** Planning is in place at the moment to minimise risk to staff and areas of risk. A booking system for researchers to access facilities is being arranged.
- **Training:** logistics of this are being considered, recognised that training will take some time to set up and organise because of the implications of social distancing.

#### **3Rs committee**

- **Animal Welfare: a series of** virtual 3Rs seminars have been planned and will start in June.
- **Audit of 3Rs:** audits for single needle use and single housing are being considered.

#### **NVS update**

- [redacted] **aquatics:** water quality issue identified at the [redacted] which has now been resolved.
- **Health Screening:** some repeat tests for specific pathogens are being completed, health screening continuing as normal.



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- **Return to research plans:** assessment of return to research plans is ongoing, a large number of proposals have been submitted with the expectation that some more straightforward studies can commence shortly.

NACWO update : no report tabled.

### NTCO update

- **Scotpil:** looking at online options for running Scotpil courses and other aspects of our courses such as invigilation online. Considering options for completion of handling once lockdown is over.
- **Training:** no training is currently being undertaken there are a number of issues to consider before this can be safely re-instated within the facilities.

## 6. Project licences under consideration:

### PL14-2020

This project licence is a renewal from a very experienced applicant. The work mainly involves POLE work but has some parallel experimental work within the facilities. The application was approved subject to the following points:

- **Objectives:** Some clarification on the experimental design of the studies is required with more information on how the objectives relate specifically to the protocols needed.
- **Single housing:** consider if this is still required and ensure that there is experimental justification, currently this is unclear.
- **Trapping:** sick animals trapped would not be used within studies, sick animals will not be used and humanely killed if required.
- **Proximity loggers:** this will be considered before being implemented in conjunction with the NVS.
- **Scientific Justification:** some additional justification of the science is required within the application.
- **Humane endpoints:** no humane endpoints detailed in protocol 1 this requires revision.
- **Protocol 1:** no embryology protocols for wood mice exist and this should be justified within the application.
- **NTS:** very technical in places but lay members found it easy to read.

### PI15-2020

This project licence is from a new group leader and well supported [REDACTED]. The licence will focus on the immune system and neonatal adversity and while the licence is very long at over 200 pages (the licence comprises two breeding and maintenance and 7 experimental protocols) the committee recognised the amount of work that has already been put into the application by the applicant and NVS; it was also noted that a meeting to discuss



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the application had also been held with the Home Office inspector. The application was approved subject to further revision as detailed in the points noted below:

- **Movement of pups:** these will move on to separate protocols once the dam has littered down, the movement will only happen once.
- **Arthritis protocols:** one protocol has not included analgesia this needs to be rectified.
- **Endpoints:** in one protocol dehydration has been included as an endpoint, this should be removed
- **Re-use:** not clear if this is required in certain protocols, this should be checked and clarified before submission.
- **NTS:** some terms are very unclear and clarification for some terms is required for example early life adversity.

### **PL16 -2020:**

This is a new application from a commercial company although it was noted that similar work and techniques is already being carried out at the university and does not raise any reputational risks to the University. It was noted that this was a very well written licence with only two protocols. The application was approved subject to consideration of the below points:

- **Protocols:** very little justification for the experimental protocol within the application has been included.
- **Justification for disease models:** disease models are mentioned within the licence but there is no specific justification for this within the application- clarified left over from version 1.
- **Protocols:** unclear whether anaesthesia is required for some steps, this needs to be checked and clarified.
- **Reduction** section: there is mention of pilot studies but this has not been detailed anywhere in the licence.
- **NTS:** too many technical terms and acronyms are included within this application for example a genetic cassette, some revisions are required here.
- **Commercial companies:** applicants will be required to sign a document ensuring that they agree to adhere to local BVS guidance policies.

### **Amendment applications submitted to the AWERB:**

#### **Full applications considered by the committee:**

A26-30 [REDACTED] : additional availability application at [REDACTED] : **approved**  
A28-30 [REDACTED] : additional availability application at [REDACTED] : **approved**

**Sub-committee: Approved:** A13-20, A15-20, A18-20

## 7. AOCB:

**Home office:** the meeting was attended by our HOI who noted that plans for inspection visits during the pandemic and beyond will be arranged. A meeting will be convened with the HOI and relevant BVS staff.



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**Date of next Meeting: to be advised**