



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 30/6/2020

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 30/06/2020

Microsoft teams

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 02/06/20: approved**
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4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **New Lay member:** The Chair formally welcomed [REDACTED] as a new lay member and recorded sincere thanks to [REDACTED] for all his hard work on the committee.
- **AWERB video:** requested that videos are prepared as soon as is possible, one video has been received so far. **Action:ongoing** [REDACTED] /AWERB video clips to be submitted.
- **AWERB security:** a discussion on AWERB security was held with a draft document in preparation: **Action:** draft document circulated for comment.

5. **Named person and Director updates**

Directors update:

- **Planning for 2nd Covid wave:** preparations for potential second wave are being considered. Plans to discuss designation of researchers with active studies as essential workers with [REDACTED] to prevent further interruptions to research.
- **Return to work meetings:** 7 meetings held over the last week to over 600 researchers, all went well. Highlighted potential for Home Office non-compliance (in current circumstances) to researchers to make them aware.

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

- **Staffing:** staff have done a fantastic job throughout. Morale is very good in facilities, staffing is constant .
- **Technical help:** encouraging researchers to use technicians for straightforward tasks to avoid entering facilities, requesting that complicated studies are carried out later if possible. All studies are being prioritised straightforward ones will go ahead where possible.
- **Facilities:** all running well no major issues and still progressing with planned mergers.
- **Return to Exp work:** Inductions online must be completed before researchers can return and a booking system for accessing facilities is now live.
- **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. No training currently being undertaken.



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3Rs committee

- **Animal Welfare:** a series of 3Rs seminar have been organised; the first online event attracted 80 attendees and 2 further seminars have been organised.
- **3Rs committee:** recent meeting has been held with some excellent discussions on the production of BM chimaeras and the use of single sex animals in studies.

NVS update

- **Scotpil presentations:** currently working on new presentations for the September course (online).
- **Research return:** considering requests and now starting to review ERFS.
- **Facilities:** no issues, continuing to look at animals via video link which is working well.

NACWO update : No concerns raised. Noted that technicians feel happy with the plans that have been put in place with regards to the return of researchers to the facilities.

NTCO update

No report tabled.

6. **Project licences under consideration:**

PL17-2020

This project licence is a renewal from a very experienced applicant and the committee commented on the high quality of the application with only minor issues to address. The application was approved subject to the following points:

- **Exp design:** Perhaps some more details on the randomisation that is mentioned within the application and how this will be achieved.
- **NTS:** the use of some of the terms need to be made more lay for example synapse.
- **NTS:** Clarify also some terms such as transient, in terms of length perhaps the word brief could be used.
- **Reduction:** this mentions matching and blinding in this summary but it does not specifically explain how this is a reduction, this should be made clearer.

Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:

A19-20: This amendment request is to add 2 new routes to directly introduce agents into the lung in existing protocols. The amendment also plans to add a new protocol involving a viral



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model of lung infection which is currently designated as severe. The amendment was approved subject to the clarification of the point below:

Action: clarify with applicant if this new protocol needs to be severe as similar models are currently designated as moderate.

Sub-committee amendment applications: Approved: A29-20, A31-20

7. **Review of processes for security:** A discussion was held to address potential issues with security when running online meetings, a summary of the initial points raised are detailed below with plans to produce a formal document for review:
 1. Home office working: consider ways to restrict family members entering the room where possible.
 2. Think about closing windows if noise can be heard by others outside.
 3. Consider the use headphones so that meeting noise is muted.
 4. Avoid forwarding on the meeting link notification and apply security settings for this in outlook.

8. **Retrospective review RR01-20:** This was approved for submission to the home office subject to the following revisions to the form.
 - Ensure that all relevant sections are completed, it appeared that some text had been omitted or in the wrong place.
 - Add numbers used under the licence with actual severities (█ to provide details).
 - Complete more information about the harms experienced to the animals in the relevant section.
 - Emphasise that the protocols as severe going forward will be moderate

Date of next Meeting: 4th August 2020