



## Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 11/08/2020

### 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 11/08/2020

*Microsoft teams*

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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 30/06/20: approved**
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#### 4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **AWERB video:** requested that videos are prepared as soon as is possible, one video has been received so far. **Action:** ongoing /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, tabled for final discussion/approval 3/9/2020.

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

##### **Directors update:**

- **Achievements:** discussed the need to highlight our progress as a department and overall, in terms of progress with the AWERB, in transparency, animal welfare and the 3Rs, training and in licencing.

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

- **Staffing:** as recorded previously staff have done a fantastic job throughout. It was noted that staff who have been shielding have returned to work.
- **Website:** currently working on updating the website to look at sections that could benefit from re-organisation.
- **Wildtype strains:** working on this project with aims to reduce breeding and buy strains in.
- **Facilities:** positive comments received on how this is working with the return to work with researchers.
- **Contingency planning for potential 2<sup>nd</sup> wave:** looking at contingency plans to ensure continuity of work in the event of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid wave.
- options include reducing/staging research work to allow work to continue in this event.

##### **NVS update**

- **NVS visits:** Routine visits have resumed on a regular basis with additional visits as and when required.
- **Condition 18 reports:** 2 condition 18 reports have been produced and the inspector informed.



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- Online access to facilities: Still looking at animals remotely on teams if required in addition to face to face visits within facilities.
- Imports: still a challenge due to flight restrictions and cancellations, trying to encourage people only to export/import if necessary.
- ERFS: noted this is still relatively quiet, this may pick up when the schools are returned and holidays complete.

### **NACWO update :**

- Review of research return and impact on facilities: NACWOs feel that facilities would manage well if a second wave occurred as staffing has been constant throughout. Noted that facility managers would be supportive of maintaining research in the event of a second wave.
- Visits: vet visits working well, and the option of teams has been very helpful.
- In summary: No issues with the return to research and facilities working well with the researchers.

### **NTCO update**

- Training: requests are being considered on an individual basis. Some assessments have already been done and vets have been to the facilities to conduct this.
- Personal licence holder training (Scotpil): Organisation of September course going well with rodent courses available online. Planning in place to live-stream the large animal and zebrafish PILAB courses in September.

## **6. Project licences under consideration:**

### **PL18-2020**

This project licence is a renewal a group leader with the aims to understand germ cell development. This is a very experienced applicant who has worked in the field for a number of years, the licence is a very straightforward application with only 2 protocols. The application was approved subject to the following minor points:

- Numbers: Noted that the numbers are comparable with the usage on the existing PPL.
- Experimental purpose: ensure that all experimental purposes are clarified clearly on the PPL especially if animals are being generated for other users.
- NTS: still a lot of non-technical terms for example “jumping genes”, this would not be clear to the general public.

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



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**A37-20:** Noted that a lot of work has been put into this with the named vets and researchers and it was recognised that this piece of work was an example of very good practice in terms of process.

**Action:** approved for submission to the home office pending the receipt of additional review comments and any relevant action.

**A16-20:** A large amendment although techniques are already being used at Edinburgh without issue. The amendment was approved subject the consideration of the following points:

- **Justification:** Include much more justification in the techniques that are being added and why.
- **Paired blood exchange:** this has been added as an additional protocol however might work better as an additional step with the relevant protocols.
- **Appendices:** Appendices cannot be revised within the new system and should now be added within the licence itself.
- **Severity:** clarify in more detail the severity limits related to the moderate severity limit set at 10% but do we need more detail on this?

**Sub-committee amendment applications: Approved:** A32-20, A33-20, A35-20, A36-20

- 7. Review of processes for security:** review of processes surrounding AWERB security, document circulated for review; no additional comments received. Plans to share this document with AWERB chairs for next meeting.
- 8. Retrospective review RR02-20:** This was approved for submission to the home office subject to the following revisions to the form.

### Main summary of points:

- **Overall:** Noted that the review had been very well written and was detailed, no major issues.
- **Part B:** add a little more detail explaining what the mutations are and the impacts they have. More emphasis on the success/general benefits of the work could be included here.
- **Audiogenic seizure model:** very helpful to detail that this was not a successful approach but perhaps a brief sentence explaining the reasons for this could be included?
- **Numbers:** The inclusion of the numbers used was really useful but more detail on actual severity could be included. KB to prepare a short summary for CA for inclusion in the review.
- **Lay Language:** As these reviews may be published and therefore potentially seen by the general public clarify for example “mutant”, consider changing this to genetically modified which may be more relevant.
- **Further review:** As these may be published consider asking someone to review for potentially emotive language/anything controversial.



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**Date of next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 10am MS teams**