



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 21/09/2021

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 21/09/2021

Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.– Apologies - [REDACTED], [REDACTED],
 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th August 2021: *approved*
 3. Presentation: *the committee heard a presentation from a group working on the impact of metastasis on bone repair*
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4. Named person and Director updates

Directors update:

- PEL: This has been significantly updated with all buildings now correctly named and with correct site 'titles'.
- Recruitment: Continuing in good shape. New TO required which is good and staff will stabilise now that annual leave has settled
- Deputy director: Post was advertised internally, interviews to be held w/c 1 November 2021. Update will be given after interviews.

5. NVS update

- Facility Forums: These were all very good, reminded users to ensure measures for monitoring match the PPL, are well described in the ERF and recording is consistent.
- Condition 18: a few recent cndtn 18 submissions were discussed. Look at data and trends to see what information required by Committee. Some staff attended HO discussions regarding cndt 18 and updated guidance will be issued.
- Audit: x2 NVS will attend facilities prior to Audit.
- 3R's: Uptake of Non-tail capture has stalled in some areas. Should AWERB be involved and release statement regarding expectations and staff to be fully engaged?
- 3R's Prize: Less engagement this year, probably impacted by COVID and online option. No entries from Technicians. Submissions will be uploaded for viewing, hopefully November, then colleagues can vote on the submissions.
- Culture of Care: Good discussions been had, planning for 2021 to be year of Culture of Care all levels of staff can engage and maybe a more holistic approach to how we talk about it?
- NC3R's: New online tool launched for self-assessment. Requires registration. Feedback would be encouraged and could look at this being used University wide. Details to be circulated.

6. NACWO update:



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- [REDACTED]: Proposed maintenance work commencing 29/10/2021 to replace concrete on outside of the building, users aware, work postponed if needed. The Decibel levels will be monitored while work being carried out.
- **Non aversive tail capture:** –To be promoted on a regular basis and encourage researchers to maintain this practice.

7. NTCO update:

- **PIL /training:** working with Facility Managers to ensure all technician training records up to date. Should be up to date by end of October 2021. Researchers have also been prompted to review.

8. **HOLC update to the committee**

- **Licencing** – Progress has been made as licences etc. are being returned quicker. They are being sent to our previous inspectors to help clear the bottle neck.
- **Audit:** 2 training sessions on ASPeL access set up for November, ASPeL account set to read only for this. Rooms set up for visits in 2 locations for HOI to be based. Prepared for audits as much as we can.
- **NACWO:** Meeting being held 17/11/21, discuss responsibilities of a NACWO, emphasis being on named person and roles. Preparing using checklist approach on responsibilities.

9. (a) Project licences under consideration:

PL19-21 (for information: final approval)

Discussed and all happy with the amendments.

PL23-21

This was a very well written PPL from, the main focus of which is to determine how infectious microorganisms “hijack” or exploit the body’s immune system to establish infection. This is a new application, which has been really well written with no concerns.

Overall [REDACTED], [REDACTED] no comments. Really clear benefits, well written. Severities for protocols are slightly out and require checking.

PL24-21

This is a renewal of a PPL from [REDACTED]. Well written, good review with good comments from reviewers. Justification for licence mentions previous work, would be good to add achievements from previous licence to demonstrate progress.. Number of important things to be addressed but no significant issues. If mechanism to add mid-point review, calendar invite would happen routinely.



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PL25-21:

This is a simple, straightforward continuation of previously held licence. The main aim of this study is to understand the mechanisms of modulations of nerve cell and additionally it aims to identify new targets to manipulate neuronal excitability in autism spectrum disorders. Interesting work seen to be well justified by reviewers.

Overall [redacted] and [redacted] feel NTS needs some work as language quite complex, requires proof read and tidied up.

PL26-21:

This is a very well written application from a senior PI with many years of experience, the main focus of which is to understand [redacted]. This application is clear and concise and well justified.

Overall [redacted], [redacted] & [redacted] feel this is a good application but a bit of rewording and simplification of NTS is required. Also some clarity on protocols, analgesia and the justification for using these animals needs to be clearer.

PL27-21:

This is a renewal application for continuation of work to investigate how tissue health is maintained by cellular degradation pathways and how they affect tumour initiation, maintenance and treatment. This is well written and can be accepted with very few comments and minimal changes.

Overall SG & GA very well written, no major concerns, wording very general, some correction required. Humane end points could be improved by adding more information.

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Agree that amendment presented today needs to come to full committee as severe protocol

Approved: A56-21), A60-21), A61-21)

10. **Update on Audit Preparations:** [redacted] covered in update. Those that lead teams, groups, management to keep reminding people to get training records up to date, be prepared and encourage colleagues to be tidy and have clean surgeries.
11. **A.O.C.B:**
[redacted] –send email to remind central area staff of point 10.

Date of next Meeting: 7th December 10am MS teams