

AWERB Minutes October 2023 meeting

The University of Edinburgh
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986



Meeting of Edinburgh AWERB on Tuesday 31st October via Teams

1. **Apologies for absence and Approval of minutes. Minutes approved.**

2. **Matters Arising**

- Update on [REDACTED] additional availability application: NVS/HOLC met with PI in question and with the PPLh from [REDACTED] to clarify all the points raised in the last meeting. They will be making revisions to the PPL. The PI in question intends to submit their own PPL application imminently.

3. **(a) To consider and advise the Establishment licence holder (PEL) on new Project licence Applications**

PL 29-23

Summary: Application can be approved (following sub-committee approval of revised version) without coming back to AWERB if protocol 4 is removed – this protocol could be reintroduced as an amendment in the future if required.

Comments:

- Licence will need to be returned to AWERB before submission if protocol 4 is not removed.
- Renewal application from well established researcher, with strong and well justified science.
- Protocol 2 and 3 are quite confusing. Flow diagram step orders are confusing, with step 2 before step 1.
- Protocol 4 dose finding appears to [REDACTED], which is not one of the aims of the licence, there was concern about this protocol and the necessity of it.
- Needs spell/grammar check.
- Background is one donor per patient- so this work would allow more people to benefit from one donation, however this key benefit gets lost in the text.
- NTS is ok.

PL 30-23 [REDACTED]

Summary: Application can be approved subject to revisions and subsequent approval by AWERB sub committee.

- Renewal from experienced researcher. Generally clear and well written. Several new elements– model to study venom-induced chronic wounds requires greater justification with more information on adverse effects etc.
- Protocols are well established but the additional new elements haven't been sufficiently considered from an adverse effects point of view.
- Clinical scoring sheet would greatly benefit the application.
- Individual animal experience not clear
- Clarification required on proposal to prioritise Reduction over Refinement. While less animals may be used, their cumulative experience is likely to be significantly worse. There is no current justification for this and revision is advised.
- Anaesthetic codes need revision
- Concerns relating to severity banding based on proposed number and maximum size of wound
- NTS: no issues raised

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PL 31-23 [REDACTED]

Summary: This is a short application from experienced well-established researcher. Science is justifiable and scientific background is well written. Non-animal alternatives have been appropriately considered and are well used. The group aims to expand this area. Application can be approved subject to revisions and subsequent approval by AWERB subcommittee.

Comments:

- Aim needs a bit more work in relation to how the objectives are addressed in the protocols.
- Protocols 2 and 3 could be combined into a single protocol to make it easier to understand the project.
- Imaging protocol talks about GA models, but not the other one – why? This seems unduly restrictive.
- Clarification on training methods required
- The scoring matrix/ daily score sheet for monitoring of animals should be supplied.
- Adverse effects and humane endpoints need to be aligned.
- References to [REDACTED] guidelines – that needs to be changed.
- Overall typos need checking.
- The objective of [REDACTED] needs to be better integrated [REDACTED] mentioned but then not included in any protocol, this should be checked.
- Reference made to sham animals – is that sham intervention, sham surgical, or just meaning 'control' animals in general

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

Amendment [REDACTED] A59-23 – Happy to approve

Summary: This is a significant amendment to a severe protocol:

Animal numbers increased to take in to account new findings that sex and age effect activity of key biomarkers.

Well justified in view of the additional funding recently secured to expand the development of new radiotracers, which would ultimately constitute a refinement. Development of a model in rats that has only previously been done in mice.

10% mortality noted elsewhere in mice, so this is an unknown in rats. It's a very invasive model.

In general the subcommittee felt this was a well written, clear and justified amendment. We need to consider the severity of these models and the applicant has worked hard to embed ways of refining into the new models. How will the model behave in the rat considering the 10% mortality in mice – or should it be a more staged approach. Humane endpoints do seem appropriate.

ERF could be used to monitor progress and set interim go/no go points. So we can do a staged approach using internal processes such as the ERF and training and support.

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved:

A64-23, A73-23

Updates to the AWERB:

4. BVS director update to the committee- none
5. BVS Deputy director update to the committee - none

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6. NVS update to the committee –

Review of submitted PPLSC 18 reports.

. NVS team and NACWOs working with ZF facility following [REDACTED]

One NVS will be giving a talk at LASA conference as part of a panel talking about refinements in tamoxifen

7. NACWO update to the committee – group looking to administer drug using novel method.

Noted that staff need retraining with supervision and input from NVS team. Once staff are competent they will be able to train group members. Staff feel more involved now they're looking at ERFs and PPLs and are happy to be involved.

Presentation on [REDACTED] facility to some technicians

Refinement: Replacing oral gavage with micropipette dosing. Has been previously trialled in other institutions. NACWOs and technicians working closely with NVS team to refine administration of analgesia as well as ensuring correct dosage. Noted this has been trialled with other substances, different types of pipettes have also been used.

8. NTCO update to the committee

Everything fine, PIL courses being transferred to [REDACTED] this will be done in the next 2 weeks

9. HOLC update to the committee

Both AWERBs very busy, this has been the busiest year in a number of years for PPLS and amendments. Thanks extended to all reviewers, your input and help much appreciated. Quite a few urgent amendments, these have all come through quickly from the HO, who have been very helpful in that respect.

Couple of meetings with inspectors, still quite a lot of inconsistencies between inspectors with what they will accept. Makes it difficult to align licences.

10. BVS Deputy Director (Vets/Home Office) Roslin AWERB report

Roslin AWERB heard about interesting project application to develop device to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Complex model but the licence was very well written.

Natural behaviour of large animals and poultry Day was well attended and we had good feedback. It has stimulated more thoughts on how to optimise the environmental enrichment in Large Animal facilities as well as the workflow during studies

Non-compliance related to [REDACTED] PELh had sent letter to ASRU asking for their input on this issue. We had feedback from ASRU on all NCs reported so far. Audit team is looking at working with us: waiting for their input.

Inconsistencies: we've been asked at several different meetings to feedback to HO wherever we have received inconsistent advice – we will collate those few cases and feedback to HO

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11. A.O.C.B

Date of next meeting: November 28th [REDACTED]