

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 9 x AWERB members, 1 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Up to date and to be sent on to ASU Management Board.	Complete
3	<b>Matters arising</b> from the notes of previous meeting (23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2021)	
3.1	3.1 Formalising draft PPL application review deadlines and production of guidance documents.	Ongoing
3.2	3.2 Etiquette Document required for those wanting to sign up to the Tissue Sharing Network. Once finalised, iTSN to be launched.	Ongoing
3.3	3.4 Structure of AWERB continues to be discussed at ASU Management Board.	Ongoing
3.4	3.6 Future AWERB auditing of techniques – will remain as ongoing action for ASU Management Board.	Ongoing
3.5	3.7 ASU to formalise enrichment piloting.	Ongoing
3.6	3.8 Welfare Escalation Process – in NVS Report	Complete
3.7	6.2 Outsourcing breeding consultation – AWERB Chair has received input from researchers and ASU staff which will be brought to ASU Management Board.	Ongoing
3.8	6.7 SOPs for monitoring for the lighting and room checks following refurbishments and/or periods of being empty– in NIO Report	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Staffing level concerns.	Will be raised with ASUMB on behalf of AWERB

4.2	Thanks to Scientific Reviewer for work on guidance documents to support VIN applications.	
4.3	Request for timeline of COVID lockdown response and Lessons Learnt review from ASUMB.	Approved, Chair will raise at ASUMB
5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	PIL revocations received prior to annual charge period.	
5.2	Reminder sent to all animal users to update their Schedule 1 competencies.	
5.3	Training and competency records checked for all PPL and PPL Amendment applicants.	
5.4	3Rs symposium, programme being finalised for circulation.	
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	Lighting checks are completed daily by ASU Staff	
6.2	Lighting SOPs are in progress to include the new monitoring system and will be included in all Pre-Study Briefings.	Clarity required that ASU SOP will be generated for full commissioning checks in rooms that have undergone recent works or have been vacant for more than 1 month.
6.3	Outsourcing of breeding raised at recent ASU Open Forum, researchers are encouraged to register any concerns with their academic representatives on the ASU Management Board.	
6.4	Welcome to the new Technical Operations and Facilities Manager	
6.5	Staffing level concerns have been recognised and work is continuing to address this at pace.	
7	<b>NVS Report.</b>	
7.1	Monitoring of anaesthetic rigs set up for optimal eye health post-surgery.	Ongoing
7.2	Stress of transport should not be minimised when considering outsourcing breeding.	

7.3	Welfare Escalation Process chart changed as requested	Approved
8	<b>NACWO reports.</b>	
8.1	Breeding facility sentinels have been sent and awaiting results.	Ongoing
8.2	Power outage planned by utilities authorities; generator tests are being undertaken to prevent power loss over this time.	
8.3	Minipig work continues with outcomes improving.	
8.4	Playroom has been constructed for minipigs.	Video clip requested
9	<b>Project Licences – New Applications.</b>	
9.1	<p>PPL.1Mar21.  Aims: To understand normal cardiac physiology to better understand how and why dysfunctions arise which generate arrhythmias.  Harms: Use of non-schedule 1 methods to facilitate harvesting of tissue for post-mortem analysis.  Benefits: Knowledge gain relating to cardiac physiology and potential targets for therapeutic interventions for the treatment of arrhythmias</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice of species and rationale relative to scientific objectives</li> <li>• Experience of heparin administration</li> <li>• Tissue biopsy outside of genotyping can be removed from background information in the licence.</li> <li>• Numbers of mice required for GAA mice breeding and maintenance.</li> <li>• Quantitative data generation and need to include more specific details re: sample size estimates.</li> </ul>	Approved subject to clarifications
9.2	<p>PPL.2Mar21.  Aims: to evaluate novel devices and drugs for the treatment of heart disease using translational models  Harms: procedures involving surgical interventions associated with manipulating cardiac function including generating disease relevant models and testing novel devices and new drug treatments or combinations  Benefits: Preclinical validation with safety and efficacy data generated for new clinical interventions.</p> <p>Discussion:</p>	Approved subject to clarification

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-making steps for novel medication or device and proceeding to these translational models.</li> <li>• Animal numbers and sample size estimates.</li> <li>• Protocol steps to include frequency, maximum number of repeats and intervals between treatments – relevant for imaging, drug treatments and repeated surgeries.</li> <li>• Randomisation steps and power calculations.</li> <li>• Monitoring and intervention steps.</li> <li>• Refinement section to consider model selection and highlight enrichment and training.</li> </ul>	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	<p>PPLAmend.1Mar21. Additional species to be added as an alternative model. Species offers potential refinement and could benefit scientific objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No requested change to animal numbers.</li> </ul>	Approved
10.2	<p>PPLAmend.2Mar21 Addition of new surgical step providing up to two recovery surgeries. Update to adverse events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define surgery length with more clarity</li> <li>• Explicit statement on minimal duration between surgeries required</li> <li>• Clarify that any listed signs in the possible signs of an adverse event will generate further action including schedule 1 killing where necessary</li> </ul>	Approved subject to clarifications
11	Project Licence Reviews.	
11.1	(None)	
11.2	Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)	
11.3	Final Reviews.	
11.3.1	(None)	
12	<b>Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.</b>	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN.1 &amp; 2 AWERB approved: UIN.2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB did not yet approve: UIN.1</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	UINs to note: (None)	

12.1.1.1	UIN.1: Application may fall under the scientific remit of a PPL. If applicant can provide sufficient evidence that this is a clinical comparison, the project may be considered as a VIN. New VIN guidance documents will be provided.	
12.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1 AWERB approved: VIN.1 AWERB approved pending clarifications: None AWERB did not yet approved: None.	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	VINs to note: (None)	
13	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
14	<b>AWERB Hub.</b> (None)	
15	<b>For Information.</b>	
16 16.1 16.2	<b>Any Other Business.</b> Rodent Handling Poster Head Fixed Mouse Procedures Working Group update	. Request feedback in 6 months to hear about habituation processes and how they are disseminating across the group.
17.1	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice): Tuesday 27th April 2021 Tuesday 18th May 2021 Tuesday 15th June 2021 Tuesday 20th July 2021	