

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 15 x AWERB members including ELH, 1 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (20th November 2024)	
3.1	2.1 Zebrafish GAA Passport.	Draft received
3.2	2.4 Pathogen present in breeding unit	Ongoing
3.3	5.3 Working group met earlier this month, with meeting planned across the New Year. AWERB to be updated as necessary	Complete
3.4	11.2 Stress impact of fire alarms	Ongoing
4	Chair's Verbal Report	
4.1	Summary of AWERB activities this year.	
4.2	Update regarding recent communications with Student Union. Consideration to be given to a planned discussion & information sharing communication event.	
5	Named Persons Reports	
5.1	NTCO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion of Training and Competency review report</li> </ul>	7 hours/1 day of 3Rs/Legislation and Ethics related CPD expected for

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries of output of Personal Licence Holder Training Course. Potential plans to consider moving location of surgical practical.</li> <li>• Overview of number of PIL holders.</li> <li>• End of term as Chair of Universities Training Group.</li> <li>• Reviewing exam questions</li> <li>• ASRU updates regarding expectations of CPD records.</li> <li>• Development of different Trainer availability roles e.g willing to train others outside of immediate research group.</li> <li>• Updates around Wellbeing role.</li> </ul>	<p>all PIL and PPL holders per year – formal policy to be drafted by Academic Lead and sent to NTCO.</p>
5.2	<p>NIO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes of enrichment study</li> <li>• Focus group work with external animal welfare charity</li> <li>• Collaborative plans around NIO Digest information sharing</li> <li>• Ongoing plans for Replacement focused event to be held next Spring</li> <li>• Creation of new Replacement webpage, detailing different available search engines, networks and funding streams</li> <li>• Recent attendance at Openness lecture</li> <li>• Publication of the Annual Report</li> <li>• Updates on advisory tissue sharing set up role with other institutions</li> </ul>	
5.3	<p>NVS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent health screen carried out.</li> <li>• Discussion of preference of refined handling techniques</li> <li>• Plans for assessment for light baseline study to understand current situation prior to attempting refinements.</li> <li>• Emotional resilience talk delivered at another Institution</li> </ul>	<p>Revisit refined handling preference discussion at January AWERB.</p> <p>Reach out to Patient Public Involvement activities.</p>
5.4	<p>NACWO</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in breeding colony lines</li> <li>• Enrichment study resumed</li> <li>• Wide range of species being used at the large animal facility</li> <li>• Large scale rehoming successes for both rats and chickens</li> <li>• Housing refinement seen with use of larger cages in rodent facility</li> <li>• Refurbishment of some animal units</li> <li>• Success of new enrichment type for handling animals</li> <li>• New dusk/dawn lighting study to be carried out by animal technicians</li> <li>• Attendance at lab animal science conference.</li> <li>• Discussion of refurbishment within aquarium and new toxicology racks</li> <li>• Modification of existing equipment to accommodate new research species</li> </ul>	
	<p>New Project Licence Review</p> <p>PPL.1Dec24</p> <p>Aims: Recently it has become clear that in life-threatening cases of malaria, the patient's own immune system is responsible for causing much of the tissue injury that occurs. This project aims to advance understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms involved in initiating the hyperinflammatory response to malaria parasites, which is responsible for organ failure in severe cases, and thereby identify therapeutic interventions that could be used to prevent it.</p> <p>Harms: Mice, GA modifications to immune system, infection with mouse malaria parasite (injection infected red blood cells). Largely mild infection, no overt signs 90% mild, 10 % moderate</p> <p>Benefits: Malaria is a devastating global disease, caused by infection with the Plasmodium parasite. The disease is estimated to affect over 200 million people and to cause 600,000 deaths per year. Parasite resistance to anti-malarial drugs is now widespread, as is resistance of the mosquito vector to the available insecticides. Basic research – publications in short term, in long term possible new therapeutics</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical signs seen in research model vs human clinical signs</li> <li>• Use of husbandry refinements including heat mats</li> <li>• Statistical design</li> </ul>	<p>Approved subject to minor changes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of sham procedures</li> <li>• Use of voluntary dosing</li> <li>• Use of anaesthesia</li> </ul>	
	<p>PPL Amendment Reviews</p> <p>PPLAmend.1Dec 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of an additional aquatic species</li> </ul> <p>PPLAmend.2Dec24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in animals</li> <li>• Addition of tethered pulse recording step</li> </ul>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
7	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
7.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1  AWERB approved:  AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1  AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
7.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.1 - The scientific aims and methods of data collection need to be more detailed, please provide more information as to what will be measured.</p> <p>Revisit to UIN.9 from November AWERB meeting.</p>	Approved
7.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 4  AWERB approved: VIN. 2 - 4  AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1  AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform

7.2.1	VINs to note: VIN.1 – consent form and information sheet needs to be reviewed by AWERB.	
8	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments  UINAmend.1Dec – Approved UINAmend.2Dec – Approved UINAmend.3Dec - Approved UINAmend.4Dec – Approved	
9	AWERB Hub. (None)	
10	Any Other Business.	
11	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 14 <sup>th</sup> January 11 <sup>th</sup> February 11 <sup>th</sup> March 1 <sup>st</sup> April 6 <sup>th</sup> May 10 <sup>th</sup> June 8 <sup>th</sup> July	