

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 13:30 16th July 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 8 x AWERB members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	To be signed off by AWERB members	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (19 th June 2024)	
2.1	2.1 Zebrafish GAA Passport.	Ongoing.
2.2	2.2 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas.	Ongoing.
2.3	2.4 Development of AWERB poster for animal units.	To be completed across summer
2.4	10.1.1 Governance of aquatics facility	Ongoing
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	AWERB Terms of Reference	Approved
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	
5.1	PPL.1Jul24 Aims: To develop treatments which may help damaged hearts to heal and protect them from further damage. The project is targeting two causes of damage - heart attacks, and low oxygen levels in a subset of children with congenital heart diseases.	

	<p>Benefits: The data will be published in peer reviewed scientific papers. If successful, the studies will generate the data needed to support the progression of the interventions into human clinical trials.</p> <p>Harms: Model of a heart attack will be induced in rats by surgically obstructing a coronary artery (under anaesthesia), treatments (including direct administration into the heart), echocardiography, pregnant rats housed in chambers where oxygen concentration is controlled, largely moderate severity, 2% severe.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinal translation of surgical methodology • Experimental design when comparing prospective novel therapeutics • Approach to selecting and validating treatment candidates • Use of randomisation and controls • Model species selection • Levels of hypoxia • Scientific justification for the metabolites focused upon within study • Litter bias conditions • Single sex - justification • Provision of enrichment throughout residence within chamber 	
<p>6</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>Project Licences – Amendments.</p> <p>PPLAmend.1Jul24 Addition of new aquatic species</p> <p>PPLAmend.2Jul24 Increase in breeding animal numbers</p> <p>PPLAmend.3Jul24 Change to the duration and frequency of tethered recording Additional maze and social interaction behavioural tests Administrative updates</p> <p>PPLAmend.4Jul24 Expansion of research aims Inclusion of new non-invasive cage environment equipment</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved subject to further clarifications</p> <p>Approved subject to further clarifications</p>

7	<p>Invited speakers – spotlight on Replacement</p> <p>AWERB received presentations from two Replacement-focused research group leaders based at the University. Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexities, benefits and limitations of currently available bio-printed and replacement models • Communication and network opportunities between Replacement and animal research communities • Use of machine-learning and AI for Replacement drug screening assays • Potential new Replacement infrastructure available at the University. 	
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
10.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved: UIN.3, 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: UIN.1, 2, 4 AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
10.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.1 – consideration of simulation alternatives</p> <p>UIN.2 – language used around rehoming of animals. Scientific reasoning for species selection</p> <p>UIN.4 – Number of animals required and 3Rs considerations.</p>	
10.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1, 2 AWERB approved: 1, 2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
10.2.1	VINs to note: Potential clarification to be produced regarding UIN and VIN application criteria.	
11	<p>Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments</p> <p>UINAmend.1 - Approved</p>	

12	AWERB Hub. (None)	
13	Any Other Business.	
13.1	Discussion regarding AWERB oversight and governance of animals used in veterinary teaching	Ongoing
13.2	Notification of delay to the Home Office publication of annual statistics. Proposed timelines of University of Bristol data publication.	
14	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person):	