

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 14:00 19th June 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 x AWERB members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved, ready for circulation to ASUMB.	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (21 st May 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.	Ongoing.
2.4	4.1 Rehoming policy – awaiting results from researcher study. Item to be marked Complete and will update when information is available.	Complete.
2.5	4.2 Rawle Report discussion actions regarding formalisation of inductions and provision of applicant guidance.	Ongoing.
	Formalisation of feedback for fish sharing network	Approved.
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Status of recruitment and induction of new of lay members	
4.2	Update regarding plans for collaboration to improve submission of ethics applications for MSc UIN cohorts	
4.3	Upcoming strategy meeting with senior team and UAR	

<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Project Licences – New Applications.</p> <p>PPL.1Jun24</p> <p>Aims: To identify the biological mechanisms regulating epithelial stem cell fate during normal and pathological organ development and regeneration in hormone regulated tissues. While predominantly focused on the mammary gland may include other organs such as the prostate</p> <p>Benefits: To contribute to addressing this need by advancing understanding of the mechanisms determining epithelial stem and progenitor cell fate and their early role in cancer.</p> <p>Harms: Mice undergoing radiation, surgery, dosing. Breeding 10% mild 90% subthreshold. Experimental 75% mild, 25% moderate</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent rationale for model use and consideration of replacement included in application • Included provision of randomisation, blinding/masking and effect sizes • Statistical design and modelling with littermates • Lactation cessation methods • Weight loss monitoring parameters • Monitoring scoresheets • Silicone imaging windows. 	<p>Approved subject to minor clarifications.</p> <p>Secretary to separate out NTS for reviewers going forward.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Project Licences – Amendments. (None)</p>	
<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>Home Office Retrospective Reviews</p> <p>PPLRR.1Jun24</p> <p>Stem cells as a potential repair therapy for neurological diseases e.g MS and hereditary ataxias.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent progress across aims of PPL, including progressing to point of clinical trials • Most procedures conducted were sub-threshold or mild. No severe procedures conducted. • Appropriate endpoints. • Use of in vitro replacement for initial investigations, with well explained reasoning for current and future animal work. 	<p>Approved</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reductions in animals required through advanced in-vivo imaging techniques, alongside improved stem cell isolation techniques. • Refinements included extended acclimatization periods, grouped housing, consideration of locomotive impairments in the placement of food and water, and high energy food. 	
8	Mid Term Reviews	
8.1	<p>PPLMTR.1Jun24 Investigation the deterioration of cardiovascular health during aging could be linked to changes in gene expression across a nervous system network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful investigations has led to new clinical studies in collaboration with hospital • No amendments requested across the licence • Endpoints appropriate and no unexpected adverse effects seen • Fewer animals used than initially estimated • Use of replacement cell lines incorporated where possible, with clear explanations • Reduction achieved through tissue sharing, use of animals as their own controls and improved molecular techniques. • Refinement through use of playpens for older rats • Large number of publications resulting from the work 	Approved
8.2	<p>PPLMTR.2Jun24 Mouse models to model patient immune systems response during inflammatory eye disease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent level of progression across all objective aims with material clinical benefits, future grant funding secured and current patent applications pending. • Minor amendments across licence including update to wording and increase in GAA breeding numbers • Appropriate endpoints • Refinements include reduction in duration of sedation required for imaging and refined anaesthesia administration 	<p>Approved</p> <p>Secretary to work with biostatistician to revisit working around reproducibility.</p>

9	Final Reviews	
9.1	<p>PPLFR.1Jun24 Using pigs to determine the optimal way of limiting the damage to the hearts of children undergo cardiac surgery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific aim met, with clinically translatable discovery • Non-recovery procedures only • Two amendments granted across the license period • Fewer animals used than anticipated through lack of funding • One publication resulting from findings of the license 	Approved.
9.2	<p>PPLFR.2Jun24 Investigating aortic aneurysms and atherosclerosis, with evaluation of potential therapeutic approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer animals used than anticipated due to COVID-19 pandemic and colony relocations • Progress made across most scientific aims, including establishing evidence for future clinical treatment routes • New pathways identified which have formed basis of new grant applications • Reduction achieved by combining two disease models into the same model. • Refinement achieved through lower dosing. • No unexpected adverse effects and confirmation of appropriate endpoints. 	Approved subject to minor clarifications
9.3	<p>PPLFR.3Jun24 Investigating if the cerebellum neural networks play a role in cognition and emotion alongside movement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress achieved across all scientific aims • Fewer animals used than anticipated due to COVID-19 pandemic, availability of staff and availability of strains to purchase over breeding. • Appropriate severity and endpoints • Use of rat tickling and playpens • Multiple refinements across routes of administration and behavioural assays. • Large number of publications produced across the project. 	Approved subject to minor clarifications
9.4	PPLFR.4Jun24 – see 7.1	Approved
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
10.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1 - 7 AWERB approved: UIN.2 – 4, 6, 7 AWERB approved pending clarifications: UIN.</p>	Secretary to inform

	AWERB did not yet approved: 1, 5	
10.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.1 – stronger justification required for use of live animals</p> <p>UIN.5 – Lack of scientific justification for the additional of more animals in the scientific setting. Concerns regarding permissions and governance process. Concerns regarding the bioload considerations for filtration systems and increase to parasite risk.</p>	AWERB and ASU to follow up regarding governance processes.
10.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: (none)</p> <p>AWERB approved:</p> <p>AWERB approved pending clarifications:</p> <p>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	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
12	AWERB Hub. (None)	
13	Any Other Business.	
13.1	Discussion regarding ASRU response rate and governance of SC18 and feedback intentions.	
13.2	Circulation of potential dates for AWERB meetings across the next academic year.	
14	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 16 Jul 2024	