

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 21st May 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
	Attendance: 16 including observers	
1	Minutes of the last meeting.	Secretary to follow up regarding signatures.
1.1	Approved	Complete
2	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (23 rd April 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.
3	Chair's Report	
3.1	Report of response to article in the student newspaper regarding forced swimming	
3.2	Parliamentary Questions – FST response from HO – response discussed.	
3.3	Options discussed to improve the quality of student project applications.	
3.4	UAR Leaders in Openness award – thanks given to NIO and the many and various members of the university animal research community for their contributions towards openness.	
4	3Rs update – continuation of last month's meeting	
4.1	Rehoming	Liaise with ECR 3Rs group to ensure all points addressed

4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that the fish sharing initiative must be sustainable. • Rehoming policy – discussion regarding transition to home life, assessment on a case-by-case rather than a species basis, care package, diet, maintaining contact with new owners, prioritisation of internal tissue sharing network, different requirements of handling animals and procedural research animals, advertising and external contacts, length of wait for re-homing, scoring matrix for assessment of suitability of new owners. • This would apply to only a small proportion of research animals as most would not be eligible for re-homing. • To cover animals held under non-ASPA-regulated projects as well as PPLs. • AWERB to approve the re-homing documents and maintain oversight via annual report of instances from department/individual who is responsible for the rehoming. <p>Rawle Report discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed with most recommendations but some concern over the small number of individuals interviewed. • Traffic light system applied – regarding how well our AWERB addresses the various points. • Develop a potential AWERB sub-group to provide guidance to applicants pre-AWERB and pre-funding applications regarding Replacement, i.e. demonstrating what work they have done to search for alternatives, e.g. prior cell work. • Develop formal induction process for new AWERB members – including NC3Rs training resources, overview of experimental design, limits of ASPA, CPD opportunities. • Promote Tried and Tested lab book and request NIO update twice per year regarding sharing good practice. ECR 3Rs group to engage with the process. 	<p>within re-homing policy for future review and finalisation.</p> <p>Amend UIN form regarding fate of animals.</p> <p>Separate sub-group meeting to discuss and feedback to future meeting</p>
5 5.1	<p>Project Licences – New Applications.</p> <p>PPL.1May24</p> <p>Aims: Service licence. This project aims to evaluate and further develop novel surgical devices and to identify those which have the potential for use in human surgery. Then to progress these devices, from the bench testing phase. Offered as a service. Focussed on the next generation of a device or new ideas for novel energy delivery. 'Energy delivery' includes the use of microwave-, radio- and ultrasound-frequencies, all of which can be used in patient diagnosis and/or treatment. For example, ultrasound is currently commonly used as a safe, standard method of monitoring a baby's health in the womb however, it is also possible to use ultrasound to treat patients with conditions such as uterine fibroids or gall stones.</p> <p>Benefits: Safe additional, or replacement, devices (or combinations) for patients with varying conditions.</p>	<p>Approved subject to changes.</p> <p>Secretary to provide AWERB governance form for submission for each new device.</p>

5.2	<p>These benefits may improve surgical outcome thereby improving quality of life for patients together with a reduction in surgical procedure duration, and the related anaesthetic requirements, as well as recovery time and therefore length of hospital stay, which would also decrease NHS costs and free up much-needed bed space. In some cases, these new devices may allow surgical intervention where currently it is not possible, thus increasing the options open to patients with several different medical conditions. For example, previous advances in endoscopic tool and technique development have changed patient treatment from open bowel surgery to endoscopic surgery.</p> <p>Harms: Pigs, non-recovery surgery (approx. 30%), moderate surgery (approx. 70%)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance process agreed for AWERB approval of each device to be tested. • Clarification of what constitutes a good result and normal measures of success. • Progression from non-recovery pilot to recovery studies. • Number of devices that can be tested with the proposed numbers of animals. • Statistics - external guidelines do not specify numbers but show comparators. Effects would be absolute rather than graded. Applicant to discuss further with biostatistician to clarify realistic animal numbers. • Secondary availability on previous licence at several institutions. This application refers purely to local animal work. • Body condition scoring and behaviour monitoring to be used as well as weight monitoring. • Pre-operative housing and food restriction. • Post-operative imaging, blood sampling and diet plans. • Clarification required regarding typical experiments and limits, as well as maximums. <p>PPL.2Apr24 Resubmission Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous concerns regarding the reliability of the proposed hydrocephalus model - now removed. Animal model now included is purely to demonstrate effectiveness of gene therapy treatment. Success in first species would trigger subsequent studies in secondary model. 	Approved
6	Project Licences – Amendments.	
6.1	PPLAmend.1May24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of licence holder. 	Approved
6.2	PPLAmend.2May24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addition of secondary species and additional procedural and imaging steps; plus additional adverse effects. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The changes enable the assessment of novel devices for the treatment of heart failure. Clarification required in the application on the need for the second species. 	Approved subject to clarification
7	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
7.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.0-4 AWERB approved: 1 AWERB approved pending clarifications: n/a AWERB did not yet approve: 0, 2, 3, 4</p>	Secretary to inform
7.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.0 - Further justification required and species to be clarified. UIN.2 – Clarification required on the benefits of the teaching. UIN.3 – Clarification needed regarding the purpose of the work and potential disturbance to the reef and fish; plus any local permissions required. UIN.4 – Explanation required regarding what data guides the related PPL work. Clarification of breeding numbers. Clarification required on the teaching aid.</p> <p>- Separate discussion on the potential validity of creating a teaching UIN to include source, storage, why teaching needed, output etc</p>	
7.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1-5 AWERB approved: 2, 3, 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: n/a AWERB not yet approved: 1, 4</p>	Secretary to inform
7.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.1 - Owner information sheet needs refinement. Timepoint of intubation to be specified. VIN.4 - Further information required on recruitment of animals to the study, to remove potential bias.</p>	
7.3	<p>Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)</p>	
8	<p>AWERB Hub. (None)</p>	

9	For Information (None)	
10	Any Other Business. (None)	
11	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 19 Jun 2024 16 Jul 2024	