

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 15th October 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x AWERB members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (17 th September 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	2.5 Discussion regarding AWERB oversight and governance of animals used in veterinary teaching	Discussed in this meeting
2.4	2.4 Governance of non-ASPA aquatics facility – initial meeting held across management teams, with more frequent NACWO support and on-call input in place; there are further review meetings planned. Governance documents to be updated.	Complete
2.5	5.1 Pathogen present in breeding unit	Ongoing.
4	Chair's Verbal Report	
4.1	Welcome to new lay member attending this meeting	
4.2	Update following a recent meeting with senior team and Understanding Animal research to discuss communications strategy around animal research.	
5	3Rs and Culture of Care Focus	

<p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>NVS presentation on recent successes and findings from Emotional Resilience workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop designed in collaboration with University Counselling Team • Several workshops held across multiple campus' • Workshops have been well attended, with repeat attendance seen across sessions. • Workbook and resilience "toolkit" produced • Volunteer resilience mentors being put in place. <p>Discussion of governance and review systems for teaching animal welfare across veterinary training, with 1 x external speaker:</p> <p>Potential delegation to expert group. AWERB to review prospective Terms of Reference and to receive regular report of use of animals and cadavers in veterinary teaching. Reviewing committee to include independent and lay membership.</p> <p>Discussion of potential rehoming recruitment with 3 x external speakers. Sub-group to be formed to work on a revised rehoming policy and potential routes for communication and recruitment, with animal welfare and University reputation at the forefront of any considerations.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Speaker to liaise with AWERB Secretariate for further organisation and input from AWERB.</p> <p>Secretariate to recruit subgroup for further discussion.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Project Licences – New Applications.</p> <p>PPL.1Oct24</p> <p>Aims: Immune-mediated inflammatory diseases of the eye (known as uveitis or iritis) are a growing medical problem (5th leading cause of preventable blindness). The disease is more common in young adults, so has a relatively greater impact on patients than blinding diseases of old age. The aim of this project is to identify and evaluate mechanisms that regulate ocular autoimmunity and to assess the potential to modulate them using therapeutic interventions.</p> <p>Benefits: The outlined work will generate new information on the mechanisms involved in initiating and sustaining uveitis. In addition, the work will generate data on the effect of interventions aimed at modulating these mechanisms with the aim of identifying improved treatment options for patients.</p> <p>Harms: largely mild, Mice, induction of eye disease by SC or IP routes, imaging of eye with specialised microscope, small volume blood sampling, interventions (direct to eye under anaesthesia or orally), surgery slow release devices</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease model lack of clinical pain signs in mice • Routes of administration, including pilot studies with voluntary consumption • Use of single sex and history of observed sex difference 	<p>Approved subject to changes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and design of pilot studies • Null data repositories and reanalysis of clinical data • Severities and associated predicted percentages • Upper limit for general anaesthesia frequency 	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Oct24 – licence holder name change – Approved.	
10.2	PELAmend.1Oct24 – Approved out of review cycle under Chairs Actions.	
8	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
8.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1 - 4 AWERB approved: 1, 2, 4 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 3 AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
8.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.2 – consider supporting statement addressing welfare standards at place of original data capture</p> <p>UIN.3 – More detail requested for expected impacts of human interference and safeguarding birds against accidental ingestion of study equipment.</p>	
8.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 4 AWERB approved: VIN. AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2, 3, 4 AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
8.2.1	<p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.2 – strengthening of wording regarding approved veterinary practice.</p>	

	VIN.3 – data collection and sharing clarifications required. VIN.4 – further work around owner consent follow up contact required.	
9	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
9.1	UINAmend.1 – Detail on scientific rationale behind the change required	
9.2	UINAmend.2 – Approved	
9.3	VINAmend.1 – Approved.	
9.4	VINAmend.2 – Approved. VINAmend.3 - Approved	
10	AWERB Hub. (None)	
11	Any Other Business.	
11.1	Discussion of video evidence journal	
11.2	Effects in research animals seen from recent fire alarm.	Ongoing
12	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 19 th November 10 th December 14 th January 11 th February 11 th March 1 st April 6 th May 10 th June 8 th July	