

DRAFT

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

23rd April 2020 (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Present:

20/04-01	<u>Apologies</u> No apologies had been received
20/04-02	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 5 th March 2020 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to some minor amendments.
20/04-03	<u>Matters Arising</u> 20/01-05 Suggestion of including a statistician. No-one has yet been identified, and this will remain on the agenda.
20/04-04	<u>Chairperson's Items</u> There were no Chairperson's Items
20/04-05	<u>Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons</u> BMSU is now operating under restricted working with a morning team and afternoon team with half hour gap to avoid cross-over. There was significant culling prior to lockdown and occupancy was reduced. Data points were taken early where possible. Breeding is currently suspended, apart from a few colonies, and lines have been frozen. Fish have been cooled and have one feed per day. All health screens are exactly as they were before lockdown. There are a significant number of draft PPLs in production. The Regional Manager for NC3Rs is leaving. BMSU will continue to work with NC3Rs and with the new appointee when made. An Assistant Director to BMSU has been appointed. Animal Aid has raised concerns regarding a new paper on Optic Modelling. Relevant UoB staff are involved in producing a response. 24 th April is World Day for Laboratory Animals and there is due to be a wreath laying ceremony outside BMSU. Campus security have been made aware of this.
20/04-06	<u>Report from the Fast Track Procedure</u> Fast track procedures are in progress as normal.
20/04-07-1	<u>Project Licence Applications</u> a) <i>METABOFUEL: Dissecting the response to metabolites in the inflammatory microenvironment</i> <u>Summary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The project aims to identify the metabolic signatures that are shared between tumour micro-environment (TME) and inflammatory disease micro-environment (IDME), and those that are specific for each condition.• The project is aimed at identifying key metabolic pathways that are amenable to pharmacological interventions and switch the immunological state to obtain clinically beneficial outcomes.• The work will open up new avenues for drug development and in the longer term impact upon the clinical management of these diseases, which collectively will improve patient outcomes.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pathways and candidate molecules identified by the project have the potential to be broadly applicable across numerous cancers and immune-mediated inflammatory diseases (IMIDs), having far-reaching clinical impact. <p>It was confirmed to the Committee that this salivary gland cannulation is a well-established technique in BMSU and only takes 3-4 minutes, but the procedure takes a while to learn. An injectable anaesthetic has to be used, which results in a longer recovery time for the animal. It was noted that this surgery requires 3 people to undertake the procedure.</p> <p>Several comments have already been made on the application by the NACWO and the VS, and these comments are being acted upon and that the protocols need additional information.</p> <p>The Committee commented that science of the project relating to sodium levels and pH levels and which is the main driver is not covered in the PPL.</p> <p>The section dealing with the 3Rs and harm/benefit to the animal is currently inadequate.</p> <p>The Committee asked for further information on the humane endpoints which need to be related the adverse effects. The mice show no adverse effects from the cannulation procedure.</p> <p>The duration of the licence was queried, and whether a 5 year licence was appropriate. Current funding is available for 3 years, but this will be considered once the revised licence is seen.</p> <p>The Committee asked whether the protocols in this licence are comparable to other groups at UoB. The Committee asked about the maximum number of interventions each animal will undergo. It was confirmed that blood samples are only taken at an end point.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the template self-populate, but the NTS did not explain the project and was too complex. The application needs to be written to ensure that the information which is included in the NTS is appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee asked why the model used is the most appropriate and ethically acceptable. It was commented that there is a need to explain why mouse usage is required, when there has been lots of work has already been done on patient samples.</p> <p>Decision: Committee agreed that further discussions are needed between the NVS, BMSU, NACWO and PI. The project will need to be re-submitted electronically to AWERB for further consideration by the Committee.</p>
20/04-08	<p>Matters relating to the 3Rs</p> <p>Activities undertaken by the Regional Programme Manager since March 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to make Animal Technicians recordings has gone ahead but not yet online Remote support for an MRC funding applications and an NC3Rs studentship application NC3Rs running remote training Several activities are on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic including animal research webpages, Blinding Randomisation workshop, 3Rs working group and the Midlands Symposium. NC3Rs Will be recruiting new Regional Manager as soon as it can be progressed
20/04-09	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Thanked everyone for attending the virtual meeting.</p>
20/04-10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting will be 4th June 2020 at 10.00am, via Zoom</p>

GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
IDME	Inflammatory Disease Micro-Environment
MRC	Medical Research Council
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer

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NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
PI	Principal Investigator
PPLs	Project Licences
TME	Tumour Micro-Environment
UoB	University of Birmingham