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THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

13th January 2022 (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Present:

22/01-01	Apologies
22/01-02	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd December 2021 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to some minor amendments.

22/01-03	Matters Arising
	No matters arising
22/01.04	
22/01-04	Chairperson's Items Both applications submitted to AWERB at the last meeting have been submitted to ASRU for consideration.
	A new Named Trainee and Competency Officer has been appointed to join the BMSU Senior Management Team.
	There will be a student vacancy on AWERB, and proposed names should be submitted to the Director of BMSU.
	The issue of Workload Allocation Model (WAM) points for AWERB Committee membership was discussed, and whether WAM points should be allocated for Ethic Committee involvement. The scale of contribution and parity of workload should be taken into consideration for WAMS. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Chair of the WAMs committee on behalf of AWERB.
22/01-05	Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons
	The Christmas break went smoothly, and all scheduled staff attended work.
	BMSU are experiencing significant problems from the rooftop plantroom and there are numerous
	leaks.
	I here are no issues with health screening, and there are no animal issues at present.
	31 st January 2022 and will be a refresher and reminder session of PPL responsibilities
	BMSU will be back to full staff next week following some illness due to Covid but this hasn't
	caused a problem operationally.
22/01-06	Report from the Fast Track Procedure
	All fast track amendments have been approved by ASRU.
22/01-07-1	<u>Project Licence Applications</u> <i>a) Understanding mechanisms of biomechanical stress and inherited heart disease</i> <i>(cardiomyopathy)</i>
	Summary:
	The stated aims of this licence were:
	• To better understand a group of numan inherited heart diseases called cardiomyopathies.
	• Such cardiomyopathies contribute substantially to the burden of heart disease in the
	UK (Overall cost of heart diseases to the UK economy is estimated to be $\pounds 19$ billion
	each year, with over 7.6 million people estimated to be living with heart diseases in the UK)
	 UN. The majority of cardiomyonathies are caused by genetic 'spalling mistakes' in proteins.
	important for cardiac contraction. This project will focus on less common causes, such
	as on a novel group of proteins associated with the heart's ability to sense stress, and
	on other proteins found to be associated with these?.

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	 This work will provide novel understanding of "what goes wrong" at molecular level in the presence of the "spelling mistakes" and will focus these investigations on signalling networks, e.g. on how the heart senses and responds to mechanical demand (a process called biomechanical stress signalling)
	(a process cance bioincentancear succes signaturing).
	The Committee raised the following points:
	Regarding the implementation of the osmotic pumps, it was clarified that a wound repair would
	only be tried once, as per standard BMSU procedures.
	The issue of the frequency of general anaesthetic administrations required for the echocardiography
	and electrocardiography was raised. It was confirmed that the numbers stated allow for potential
	repeats of ECGs if required.
	The issue of the size of the mouse heart compared to other animals and variations in physiology
	was considered. It was argued that the mouse is an accepted, appropriate model and that the ECG
	provides first line information, indicative of the electrical abnormalities that are the basis of the
	The two mojor models to be used in this work were discussed. One mouse model reflects the
	human genetic variant, whereas the other model uses a combination of drugs which creates
	different responses dependent upon the triggers applied. It was agreed that a justification for each
	model needs to be included in the application. Pilot studies have taken place to establish the best
	time period for drug administration.
	The project is partially funded via industry, and it was queried whether all of the drugs used are
	approved. All of the drugs are clinical grade and are going to phase 1 clinical trials. A pilot study
	has been undertaken and the drugs are well tolerated.
	The number of mice required was queried, and it was agreed that the numbers are realistic.
	Decision: Committee agreed that further discussions are needed between the NVS, BMSU, NACWO and PI prior to obtaining Chairperson's approval to send to ASRU
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	rather than moderate, so it was advised to run the fungal model initially, allowing an amendment for a second model to be submitted at a later date. Discussions took place regarding the models used and why these particular fungal and MS models were selected. It was stated that discussions have taken place with other PPL holders within the Infection research area of the College and had informed that choice of models. The issue of the level of T-cell activation at different score levels was discussed, and whether the models suggested are the most appropriate. It was agreed that justification of the model needs to be included, and that the less severe model should be run initially. It was agreed that this is a basic science application rather than a disease prevention application. Decision: Committee agreed that further discussions are needed between the NVS, BMSU, NACWO and PI prior to being circulated electronically for comment and approval before being sent to ASRU.
22/01-08	 Matters relating to the 3Rs Implementation of the ARRIVE guidelines. Advice has also been published for funding bodies and journals. ARRIVE Action Plans now available on the NC3Rs website. Frontiers has a special issue Towards a New 3Rs Era in Experimental Research. Submission Deadlines: abstracts 29 May 2022, manuscripts 29 November 2022. Two researchers at the University of Birmingham have been invited to submit full applications for the current Skills and Knowledge Transfer grants call. The NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager (Midlands) has arranged for two award holders at the University of Birmingham to meet with our F1000 partner in order to discuss submitting a methods paper to the NC3Rs Gateway. Meetings have been scheduled for February 2022.
22/01-09	Condition 18 Reports There have been 3 reports submitted.
22/01-10	Any Other Business There was no further business.
22/01-11	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting – 24 th February 2022 via Zoom

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GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
ASRU	Animals in Science Regulation Unit
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
ECG	Electrocardiogram
MDS	The College of Medical and Dental Sciences
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NAD	Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
PI	Principal Investigator
PEL	Establishment licence
PIL	Personal licence (Procedure Individual Licence)
PPLs	Project licence (Procedure Project Licence)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UoB	University of Birmingham
WAM	Workload Allocation Model