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THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

5th March 2020

MINUTES

Present:

20/03-01	<u>Apologies</u> The Committee agreed to continue without the NVS as there was only one application which had already been reviewed by the NVS
20/03-02	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd January 2020 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to some minor amendments.

20/03-03	<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. 20/01-07-1(a) Mice are going to be brought into BMSU on a breeding programme and one protocol will be used. The licence is to be amended to include therapeutics. There will be a stepped approach to the licence which is being discussed with the new HOI 20/01-07-2(b) This application has been amended and is with new HOI 20/01-07-3(c) This Project Licence is now agreed and approved
20/03-04	<u>Chairperson's Items</u> There were no Chairperson's Items
20/03-05	<u>Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons</u> There has been a handover with new HOI, which included a meeting with senior officers within the University and a tour of the facilities. The new HOI will attend an AWERB in the near future. They have not yet attended the NC3Rs half day training for new Inspectors The fire alarm installation has been completed in BMSU. COVID-19 contingency planning has been undertaken. The biggest challenge will be around travel via public transport, and school closures and the impact on colony support. PIs and groups may have to undertake some colony maintenance. There have been two FOIs requesting animal numbers which will be published on the website. PETA have written to the VC regarding the sepsis FOI. BMSU has produced redacted licence information, but PETA are challenging the clinical relevance of models. A response is being produced.
20/03-06	<u>Report from the Fast Track Procedure</u> Fast track procedures are in progress as normal.
20/03-07-1	<u>Project Licence Applications</u> a) <i>Treatment strategies for familial breast cancer</i> Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The aim of this project is to identify and test new treatment strategies for familial breast cancer• Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, accounting for 15% of all new cancer cases (2016)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most breast cancer patients are treated successfully with endocrine, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. However, around 20% recur. • Familial breast and ovarian cancers are sensitive to certain treatments aimed at damaging DNA, these cancers also become resistant over time. • We aim to identify new treatments to kill cancers and to kill those that become resistant to current treatments. <p>The Committee asked whether radiation needed to be included. It was confirmed that this is tiny dose for diagnostic purposes. Protocol 1 needs minor amendment to reflect this.</p> <p>Under the 3Rs section, randomisation and blinding cells are mentioned, but not animals. There is evidence of lots of good practice, but just needs some minor amendments regarding mouse numbers.</p> <p>The protocol steps need some fine tuning to ensure consistency between protocols.</p> <p>There is some inconsistency with humane end points, and the body condition score between protocols which need to be addressed.</p> <p>Blood volume limits have been corrected to 10% rather than 15%.</p> <p>The study is only using females, but these are being taken from a central breeding colony so males will be used in different studies.</p> <p>Humane end points and adverse affects and wording need consistency throughout the document.</p> <p>The harm section and NTS should include comments around pain severity. There should be confirmation that once the end point is reached, the animals would be culled.</p> <p>The Committee stated that blood sampling near the base of the tail is not advised.</p> <p>The issue of Open Access was discussed. As the funder is CRUK, publications will be open access, but may be embargoed.</p> <p>BMSU has some consistent cancer protocols around around humane end points which will be shared for future protocols, including end points and side effects.</p> <p>The NTS is self populating, and the applicant will need to ensure that it is sufficiently lay without affecting the scientific information that has to be provided in other areas of the application.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the licence was well written, and the presentation from the PI was clear.</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 to AWERB for further consideration.</p>
20/03-08	<p>Matters relating to the 3Rs</p> <p>Activities undertaken by the Regional Programme Manager since January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ran a workshop on Blinding and Randomisation for animal technicians. This will be followed-up with an email to researchers and offer of further workshops • Provided advice on an MRC Fellowship application regarding the justification for the use of animals and power calculations • Met the new college communications manager (along with the Deputy Director of the BMSU) to discuss plans for Birmingham's animal research webpages (including 3Rs-focussed case studies) • An animal technician is to be filmed as part of the NC3Rs' refined mouse handling video collection. These will be made publicly available on the NC3Rs website, and forms part of the University's commitment to the Concordat on Openness. • Terms of reference have been prepared for the university's new 3Rs working group. These were presented to the AWERB. Members have been invited (they will become the university's 3Rs champions) with meetings to be arranged.
20/03-09	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no further business</p>
20/03-10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p>

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	The date of the next meeting will be 23 rd April 2020 at 10.00am in the Stanley Barnes Meeting Room
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GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMedSci	Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
FOI	Freedom of Information
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NEI	National Eye Institute
NIH	National Institute of Health
NPIMR	Northwick Park Institute for Medical Research
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
PETA	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
PI	Principal Investigator
UAR	Understanding Animal Research
UoB	University of Birmingham