

**DRAFT**

**CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018

**MINUTES**

Present:

18/08-01            Apologies

18/08-02            Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to minor amendments.

18/08-03            Matters Arising

In relation to minute 18/06-07-1, the NC3Rs Midlands Programme Manager has not met with the Project Licence holder, but has met with another member of the research team to provide feedback on the application.

Regarding minute 18/06-07-3, the Chair and the Director of BMSU will be meeting with the PI to determine the next steps required.

18/08-04            Chairperson's Items

- There were no Chairperson's items to report.

18/08-05            Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons

*Report from the Director of BMSU:*

- The Committee was reminded of an application reviewed some time ago which involved an exercise protocol with aged mice. At the time, AWERB expressed reservations about the

## **CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

practicalities of the proposed work and the PI is now experiencing difficulties because the 24 month old mice are very reluctant to exercise. For the time being, the treadmill speed has been reduced and 18 month old rather than 24 month old mice are being used. The Home Office Inspector will be consulted about other possible ways of approaching this problem.

- There has recently been a self-reported incidence of non-compliance within BMSU which has been appropriately dealt with and resolved. Despite the controls in place, due to an oversight a researcher had not amended their Personal Licence to reflect the fact that they had completed PIL-C training. Though unfortunate, this has no animal welfare implications and further oversight has now been implemented to avoid the same thing happening again in the future.
- There will be a number of new applications over the next few months for work to be carried out by new Birmingham Fellows.
- A job advertisement is live for an Assistant Director of BMSU.

### *Report from the Named Veterinary Surgeon:*

- It is hoped that the recent difficulties with the xenopus frog colony have been resolved now that the building work within BMSU is complete.

### *Report from the Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers:*

- Nothing further to report.

18/08-06

### Report from the Fast Track Procedure

The fast track procedure is up-to-date and a record of matters discussed is stored on the Committee's Collaborate pages.

18/08-07-1

### Application Ref TBA – Modulation of leukocyte recruitment during inflammation in ageing

The overall aim of this project is to understand the regulation of inflammation, in particular immune cell movement, in the ageing population; specifically, to identify the pathways that usually maintain expression of specific receptors on a type of immune cell and to determine how this is lost in disease and ageing.

## **CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

The Home Office Inspector has already commented on this application and is happy with it.

The PI gave a presentation explaining the application to the Committee.

It was queried whether female as well as male mice will be used. It was explained that both will be used, but male mice will be prioritised as the historical data is based on males. The effect of female hormones in the context of these experiments has not yet been studied and will be investigated further.

‘Old’ mice are generally understood to be those over the age of 18 months, beyond which point they tend to become notably less healthy. If mice aged 24 months or more will be included, it may be necessary to increase the size of the cohort; the PI has included a 10% increase in sample size in line with this.

In the section on refinement in part D of the application, the reference to ‘the NTS tool’ should be changed to ‘the EDA tool’.

It was explained that peritonitis will be induced via a single injection and that depending upon the dose used and the age of the mouse, the time required for resolution will vary.

Based on the current wording of the application, the Committee queried whether inhalation anaesthesia will be used for intravital work. It was explained that it may be used to induce unconsciousness alongside intravenous anaesthesia. It was noted that anaesthetising older mice will pose particular challenges and experience in this will be developed as the cohort ages.

In the section of the application on reduction, dose ranging experiments are mentioned. The Committee queried how these fit with the rest of the project and whether there should be a separate dose ranging protocol. The PI explained that they relate to the pilot study and therefore do not require a separate protocol. There will be no toxicity testing of new compounds.

The use of analgesia in the zymosan model should be listed as a refinement.

It was suggested that it may be helpful to increase the number of animals to avoid the possibility that some animals may end up being singly housed towards the end of the study.

## **CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

In relation to the stated adverse effects, it was explained that the stated weight loss limits of 15% and 20% body weight relate to overnight weight loss and gradual weight loss respectively.

Specific adverse effects should be stated in relation to oral gavage.

The Committee was reassured that BMSU staff have extensive experience of the proposed models, the only new element being that the models will now be used with aged mice. Existing score sheets will be developed to reflect the increased age of the mice.

There is currently much information about refinements in the adverse effects section of the application and some of this should be moved into the NTS.

After the PI left the meeting, no further issues were raised.

*Resolved that:*

The revisions discussed above will be made and incorporated into the application. Once this has been done, a recommendation will be made that the Establishment Licence Holder submits the application to the Home Office.

18/08-08

### **Matters relating to the 3Rs**

*Report from the NC3Rs representative*

Activities undertaken recently:

- A workshop on peer review recently took place within the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and was very well received.
- A presentation was given at a Research Support all staff meeting.
- The NC3Rs Midlands Programme Manager attended a Home Office meeting about the development of the new licence application form.
- A presentation was given at the University of Warwick to share best practice on the 3Rs.

Upcoming activities will include:

## **CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

- The previously proposed news item on recent NC3Rs funding and some 3Rs examples are yet to be included on the website and this will be followed up.
- Work towards the forthcoming Midlands 3Rs symposium is ongoing. All speakers have been confirmed and 6 posters have been accepted from the University of Birmingham. 15 members of staff from Birmingham have registered to attend – however, there has been little uptake from researchers, and the deadline is the end of August. It was agreed that the NC3Rs Midlands Programme Manager will draft a reminder, to be sent out by either the Chair or the Establishment Licence Holder.
- Several researchers have submitted studentship applications to the NC3Rs.
- A researcher has expressed an interest in a forthcoming CRACK IT Challenge.
- A model using abattoir tissue rather than live animals has now been published as an NC3Rs Solution.
- There are now 4 NC3Rs Regional Programme Managers within the UK, with the Midlands post being the first to be appointed.

**CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

18/08-09

Any Other Business

There were no additional issues to report.

18/08-11

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**GLOSSARY**

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
CRACK IT	NC3Rs open innovation programme
EDA	Experimental Design Assistant
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
PI	Principal Investigator
PIL-C	Home Office training covering basic surgery and anaesthesia techniques
TBA	To Be Announced
UK	United Kingdom