DRAFT

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

7th April 2022 (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Present:

22/04-01	Apologies Apologies had been received
22/04-02	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2022 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to some minor amendments.

22/04-03	Matters Arising A PhD student has been offered the BMSU funded space on the FRAME workshop. The MDS Workload Allocation Model Committee has agreed that AWERB Committee members will be allocated formal credit points for their services to AWERB.
22/04-04	Chairperson's Items There were no Chairperson's Items
22/04-05	Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons AWERB welcomed the new Named Training and Competency Officer. There is still a vacancy for a student representative. Following a search for a new external member for AWERB, an individual who works for the RSPCA has been approached and has agreed to join. Mouse pneumonia virus (MPV) has been identified in several rats. The majority were required for short term experiments and so were used as planned. A small cohort of rats are however being kept for an ageing study, and so have been moved to a separate containment room until required. The rooms surrounding the rat room tested negative for MPV. Screening will continue. It was noted that following Brexit, each country has their own requirements for import of animals from the UK. This means that, depending on the receiving country, some animals will need to be quarantined or undergo additional screening before departure. The Users Forum is scheduled for the end of April and all PPL holders have been invited. The focus will be on providing PPL holders with the latest information regarding changes in how ASRU will function going forward, and an update on how BMSU will oversee training and competency following the purchase of a new training database, and as more people return to the BMSU to undertake procedures post-covid. A full animal health screen is scheduled for next week.
22/04-06	Report from the Fast Track Procedure This is nothing to report at present. ASRU is currently responding within 20 working days.
22/04-07-1	Project Licence Applications *a) Mechanisms controlling anti-tumour responses in primary and metastatic disease.* Summary: The stated aim of this licence is to determine how different cellular interactions control the anti-tumour immune response in primary and metastatic disease and how targeting certain mechanisms, termed immune checkpoints, alters this. • In the last 10 years, there have been enormous advances in exploiting immune responses to kill cancers. Successes include targeting immune checkpoints, which have revealed that even with late-stage diagnosis, common cancers such as melanoma can be cured in some patients. • This project will investigate how different immune cells interact to support the anti-tumour response in both primary cancer and in metastatic disease.

	• The focus will be on T cells as it is known these are the cells best equipped to kill cancer cells and which are able to respond to therapies such as immune checkpoint blockade. The Committee raised the following points: A question was raised around whether the combined use of fluorescent and bioluminescent labelling would cause interference with each other visually. It was confirmed that there is no interference and that they can be used together with no problems. The protocols need to be restructured to better reflect the plan of work on groups of animals. It is a large licence, and it was noted that additional funding will be required to cover the later proposed experiments. It was requested that the funding currently held for earlier aspects of the project should be stated and that it should be made clearer that additional applications for funding from CRUK, Wellcome and Industry are being sought for the further work. The adverse effects need to be clarified. It was stated that endoscopy could be used to monitor progression of tumour size. It was also noted that generally the size of the tumour can be controlled by the number of tumour cells introduced. There needs to be clarification regarding injections into the colon wall, and it was confirmed that if the wall is seen to have been inadvertently punctured, then the mouse will be killed immediately. The size of the endoscope was discussed, and it was confirmed that there is a 3mm and a 2mm endoscope, both of which are used routinely in the mouse without issue. The issue of metastases was discussed, as the primary tumour model to be used in this project does not metastasise. Instead, metastases are to be created artificially by IV injection of cells. It was questioned whether this approach was the most appropriate as the metastases normally develop via lymph nodes, however it was explained that this approach is the best way to obtain the fundamental information required to inform future studies and choice of model. A query was raised over the principle of the two-tumour model and whether it was an appropriate model of metastasis. It was confirmed that this approach will allow the fundamental assessment of how two tumours behave (and interact) within the same host. It was pointed out that the maximum size an individual tumour would be permitted to grow to would be less than for a single tumour, as the total tumour burden is considered when assessing the impact on the animal. Reassurance was provided that the scientific aims could still be achieved within these limitations. As a result of this discussion, it was agreed that the use of the models should be clarified in the application with clearer statements on how they meet the aims of the science. There should be greater clarity in the NTS regarding what happens to the mice during each protocol. **Decision: Committee agreed that further discussions are needed between the NVS, BMSU, NACWO and PI prior to the application being circulated electronically for comment and approval before being sent to ASRU.**
22/04-08	<u>Matters relating to the 3Rs</u> • The 3Rs Focus Group is finalising the answers to the next NC3Rs 3Rs self-assessment ready for submission and analysis. • The Midlands 3Rs joint symposium is taking place in Nottingham on 8 July. The 3Rs Champions have circulated the advert within their Institutes first, with a follow-up advert sent via the BMSU to all PIL and PPL holders. The NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager has also circulated to relevant non-animal users. AWERB members are encouraged to attend • The NC3Rs is holding an online workshop 4 May 14:00: the impact of food restriction on experimental outcomes and rodent welfare. • The NC3Rs has added new E-learning modules to the Resources hub on their website. **Pain Alleviation**: provides detailed practical information on choosing and using analgesics, including issues you might encounter when managing pain following surgery. **Pain Assessment**: focuses on how to assess post-operative pain, including opportunities for you to assess and score pain levels and receive feedback on your performance.

	• The NC3Rs also has another new resource on their website: Minimising aggression in group-housed male mice.
22/04-09	Condition 18 Reports There is nothing to report at present.
22/04-10	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting – 19th May 2022 via Zoom

GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
ASRU	Animals in Science Regulation Unit
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
CRUK	Cancer Research UK
FRAME	Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments
MPV	Mouse Pneumonia Virus
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
PEL	Establishment licence
PhD	Doctorate of Philosophy
PI	Principal Investigator
PIL	Personal licence (Procedure Individual Licence)
PPLs	Project licence (Procedure Project Licence)
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
T Cell	A type of lymphocyte (white blood cell)
UoB	University of Birmingham
WAM	Workload Allocation Model