CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

22nd August 2019

MINUTES

Present:

19/08-01	Apologies .
19/08-02	Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2019 were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to minor amendments.

19/08-03	Matters Arising There were no matters arising.
19/08-04	Chairperson's Items There were no Chairperson's Items
19/08-05	Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons BMSU has been featured in a 2-page article in Buzz and has resulted in people who are interested in attending AWERB. Members of the College will be 'Talking Heads' for the BMSU website. It is proposed that a Retrospective Reviews Form (mid-term review) be introduced and that a small AWERB Sub-Group will be convened to review the forms and report back to AWERB. This is for highlighting best practice; identify improvements and assessing how any issues are being addressed. All licence holders are aware of the new Project Licence system. ARMIS needs to be backed-up to ensure that a copy of all transgenic information is retained. IT are aware of the issue. A short survey is to be circulated for comment. BMSU building work is ongoing.
19/08-06	Report from the Fast Track Procedure There were no Fast Track Procedures to be reported.
19/08-07-1	Project Licence Applications *a) Design and function of novel antigen-specific immunotherapies* Summary: • The immune system has evolved to protect against infection, however in about 10% of the population, the immune system attacks our own tissues. • One output will be to better understand how antigen-specific immunotherapy works to enable improvements in delivery to patients. • The second output will be to develop therapies for diseases for which there is no satisfactory method of treatment. • All of the procedures require analysis of lymphoid tissues and blood samples in vitro in order to assess the impact of the interventions tests. The Panel asked what happens to the animals. Soluble peptides are produced from mouse models, and this is sufficient to provide proof for progression to clinical trial. Protocols are designed with BMSU and samples are then collected for laboratory testing. These peptides have to be designed to be safe so that they can be used as a vaccine in healthy patients to prevent disease when there is genetically a high expectation that disease such as diabetes will occur. The breeding programme was discussed and clarified.

	The injection schedule in Protocol 3 was clarified, along with the animal welfare controls. The downloaded licence does not include animal numbers for each protocol. This will be discussed with the developers. The NTS / Project Summary is still quite technical but this is due to the 'hybrid' nature of the application. The total number of animals was discussed, along with the breeding programme to ensure associated resources and funding is in place. The animal numbers should be confirmed. **Decision: Committee agreed with the licence with some minor amendments for clarity.**
19/08-07-2	*b) Characterising and inhibiting vascular disturbances* Summary: • This is the renewal of a licence. • The aim of this project is to characterise the microcirculatory disturbances associated with inflammatory disorders, in the presence of co-morbidities, and identify strategies that can confer therapeutic benefit • For many vascular diseases such as heart attacks, stroke and acute renal failure, occurrence is higher and outcomes worse in aged and diabetic individuals. • These diseases consume vast amounts of limited NHS funds and time, and therapeutic interventions are not always effective. • These studies may provide data that would have beneficial implications for a whole host of diseases. • To maximise information gained, images will be acquired from multiple blood vessels and multiple sites, and tissue / serum samples taken for further data generation. Laser speckle perfusion imaging (non-contact imaging) should be included as an additional technique for obtaining more data. All procedures are non-recovery. The Panel queried whether the inflammatory response was dampened while the animal is anaesthetised. The response is reduced, but is still measurable. Various anaesthesia methods and chemicals were discussed. The Panel agreed that a dedicated person overseeing the Intravital Suite was commended. Adverse effects of aged mice should be included in the protocols. It was confirmed that the high fat diet would not be used in aged mice. Protocol 2 appears to be a little vague and needs to be expanded to provide more detail on frequency and maximum number. Reduction section needs to be expanded to explain how much different data could be collected from one animal. **Decision: Committee agreed with licence with some minor amendments.**
19/08-07-3	*c) The role of serogroup specific vaccination in controlling footrot in sheep* Summary • Most lameness in sheep is caused by footrot is a painful condition present in over 90% of British flocks. At any time 5% of sheep are lame, equivalent to 370,000 breeding ewes in England alone. • This project aims to carry out preliminary investigations into a new vaccination strategy for the reduction of footrot. • This project will determine the effect of targeting specific footrot serogroups on lameness and incidence, and how the serogroups are distributed within the flock. • Serogroup specific vaccination has been successful in other countries, and it is important to establish if this strategy could be used to control lameness in the UK. • An effective vaccine would reduce lameness, reduce antibiotic use and preserve efficacy for treatment of other bacterial diseases which would aid the social and economic sustainability of sheep farming. There are still ongoing discussions between the Home Office and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate around whether a licence is actually required for this project. The first set of sheep need to be vaccinated in October. There was a query regarding which commercial farms were included, and it was confirmed that these farms are known to the researcher. The level of footrot within sheep breeds was discussed and whether there is a difference in levels between breeds. All of the commercial farms use similar breeds. The vaccines should last approximately 6 months, and will monitor ewes mid-pregnancy. It was agreed that there was some limitations to the blinding process, but this was unavoidable. The experimental design was discussed around what

	would happen if animals needed to be treated that were in the control group. Ethically, the animals would need to be treated, and would not be left lame. It was confirmed that the outcomes of this research would be very translatable to other commercial farms. At the end of the study, that plan is that all ewes should be passed back to the farmer to return back to the flock and follow standard farming practice. **Decision: Committee agreed with the licence if it is required.**
19/08-08	Matters relating to the 3Rs There was a reminder re. 3Rs Symposium in Leicester and the AWERB encouraged people to attend.
19/08-09	Any Other Business There was no further business
19/08-10	Date of Next Meeting The date of the next meeting will be 3rd October 2019 at 10am in the Stanley Barnes Meeting Room

GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
PI	Principal Investigator
PPL	Project Licence
UoB	University of Birmingham