

DRAFT

CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

20th August 2020 (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Present:

20/08-01	<u>Apologies</u>
20/08-02	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd July were considered by the Committee and were approved subject to some minor amendments.
20/08-03	<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. 20/07-14 Chair to write to the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer re. Workload Allocation Model credit allocation
20/08-04	<u>Chairperson's Items</u> There were no Chairperson's items
20/08-05	<u>Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU and Named Persons</u> BMSU are reviewing the process of internal retrospective reviews of projects. This will then be fed back to this Committee to be able to advise new applicants. Home Office Inspectors are continuing to work remotely and there is still no date for a return to face to face visits. From 11 th September, the two shift teams will both work an extra hour on site to allow additional time for support to PIs. More people will be returning to campus as of September, and there are some concerns about BMSU capacity. Social distancing is the limiting factor with activity and everyone is working within the guidelines. The two-shift system will be retained for the foreseeable future.
20/08-06	<u>Report from the Fast Track Procedure</u> Fast track procedures are in progress as normal and no queries had been raised.
20/08-07-1	<u>Project Licence Applications</u> <i>a) BRCA1-associated pathways in cancer development</i> <u>Summary:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The aim of this project is to investigate distinct BRCA1 pathways and functions in tumour development and identify 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).• 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 breed animals with different missense BRCA1 mutations, observe tumour development and identify new treatments. <p>The Committee stated that growing tumours on both flanks does not reduce the number of animals as a statistician would state that n=1. The flanks cannot be treated as independent as procedures on one side affects the other. A single flank incision is less traumatic for the animal, and needs to be considered where appropriate.</p>

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	<p>The Committee queried why there is an IV administration route in a breast cancer model. As the licence is specifically monitoring breast cancer, and for clarity, the Committee advised removing the IV process. An amendment can be requested at a later date if needed.</p> <p>The age of the mice was discussed, and it was advised that an 18-month time scale should be used.</p> <p>Power calculations are being made on current levels of activity and experimental experience. It was stated that there may be a need for 2 breeding protocols. It was suggested to progress with a mild protocol, and if an animal has a tumour then it will be immediately culled.</p> <p>The issue of duct injection was discussed, and it was confirmed that if there is a rupture, the animal will be culled.</p> <p>The issue of tumour growth size was discussed, and whether a tumour passage protocol would be required.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there should also be a pilot study included in the experimental design.</p> <p>Decision: Committee agreed that further discussions are needed between the NVS, BMSU, NACWO and PI. The project will be re-circulated for electronic approval and then sent to the HOI.</p>
20/08-08	<p><u>Matters relating to the 3Rs</u></p> <p>There has been no BMSU 3Rs focus group meeting</p>
20/08-09	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no other business</p>
20/08-10	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting to be confirmed</p>

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GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
BRCA1	Tumour suppressor protein to help repair DNA. Mutations increase risk of breast cancer
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
HOI	Home Office Inspector
IV	Intravenous Therapy
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
PI	Principal Investigator
PPLs	Project Licences
UoB	University of Birmingham