

**University of Nottingham**  
**Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body**  
**Thursday 4 October 2018**

**MINUTES**

10 Members Present, 14 Apologies, 4 in Attendance

**18/45 Minutes**

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

**18/46 Matters arising from the Minutes**

**(a) Action log**

The action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members. This included:

- (1) That the 3Rs representative and the NACWO would meet with the company to discuss refined mouse handling.
- (2) That example applications had been made available on workspace.
- (3) That the HOI had no concerns at present but would tell AWERB if issues were identified.
- (4) That examples of virtual tours had been circulated and that the University of Nottingham may look to do this in the future.

**(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 18/36]**

REPORTED: That two applications had been submitted on ASPeL and one would go through another University's AWERB.

**18/47 Chair's Business**

**(a) Membership**

REPORTED: That one academic member had agreed to extend their membership for a further term of three years, but the Chair's ability to contact other potential replacement candidates in person proved difficult over the summer.

RESOLVED: That the Chair and the NACWO would discuss membership further.

**18/48 Experimental Design Assistant (EDA)**

REPORTED: That the EDA was a useful tool for guiding researchers through the design and analysis of *in vivo* experiments. One of the academic members of AWERB had used EDA as part of their PPL application and found it very useful but not intuitive without the help of an experienced user. A possible strategy had been discussed at NC3Rs. Concerns were raised about the EDA's use in Psychology.

RESOLVED: That the NC3Rs Regional Programme Manager (Midlands) would train people initially, then champion(s) would be selected to coordinate this. It would be emphasised that funders such as the MRC are asking to see EDAs (Wellcome Trust, CRUK, BBSRC and others were also looking at including EDA in their applicant guidelines). Not all licences would have to use EDA yet, but AWERB would require EDA in the future. Initially one applicant (MRC or less experienced staff) per AWERB should have used EDA. If applications were not approved at AWERB then applicants would have to use EDA. EDA would be added as an early suggested step in the AWERB process.

## **18/49 Project Licence Applications**

### **(a) Dr AA**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating biocompatibility of human decellularised matrices.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around analgesic, surgical techniques and power analysis.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

### **(b) Dr BB**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating cardiovascular effects of G-protein coupled receptor and receptor tyrosine kinase ligands; alone or in combination.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, Scientific Reader and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around the choice of model, emphasising refinements and EDA.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved with no further comments.

### **(c) Dr CC**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved improving understanding of the bovine immune system.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, the NC3Rs Representative and a member of the AWERB. Questioning primarily focused around building facilities, analgesia, scoring and the power calculation.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

### **(d) Prof DD**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating the role of corticostriatal dopamine in the inhibitory modulation of associative learning.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, NC3Rs Representative and an AWERB member. Questioning primarily focused around missing/loose head caps, *ex vivo* work and animal numbers.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

**(e) Dr EE**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating *Helicobacter pylori* infection and protection against multiple sclerosis.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around the model and humane end points.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

**(f) Prof FF**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved improving *in vitro* maturation of cattle oocytes.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around sedation, analgesia and frequency of interventions.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

**(g) Dr GG**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved *in vivo* microdialysis to profile novel drugs.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, NC3Rs Representative and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused around novel compounds and reuse.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

**18/50 Summary of PPL applications and amendments**

CONSIDERED: A summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments.

REPORTED: That one was still being drafted, one had not progressed in a while and a third had received HOI comments and would be submitted soon.

**18/51 3Rs update**

REPORTED: That refined handling techniques had been rolled out for University of Nottingham staff and it had gone well. Nottingham was well represented at the 3Rs symposium. Nottingham had 3 NC3R studentships shortlisted (to be announced next week). The NACWO agreed that Nottingham could contribute to a blinding study soon.

**18/52 BSU Staffing Levels Update**

REPORTED: That two members of staff had been recruited and further interviews would take place on Friday for two additional animal technician posts. Reduced work load over the summer meant there had been minimal impact but the BSU were working to increase staffing levels.

**18/53 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report**

REPORTED: That four project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

**18/54 Any Other Business**

REPORTED: That the annual health screen reported that all mice and rats sampled were negative for the agents tested.