

University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 15 March 2018

MINUTES

16 Members Present, 11 Apologies, 2 in Attendance

18/09 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

18/10 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) Ongoing progress of the AWERB Document.
- (2) The progress around BSU staff declaring their medication.
- (3) That the Project Licence Applicants must attend the AWERB.
- (4) That a visit had been arranged for 28 March for meeting the new HOI.
- (5) That an applicant had been told about a necessary review.
- (6) A small group had met to recommend how to streamline the application process.

(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 18/04]

REPORTED: One of the applicants was in discussion with the HOI and a draft would come through soon. Another application had been sent to the HO.

(c) Demonstrations [Minute 18/01]

REPORTED: That a Nottinghamshire animal rights organisation had planned demonstrations in Market Square and University Park Campus on a 'world day of action' on 28 April. There had been recent tweets about the University's animal use figures.

18/11 Project Licence Applications

(a) Prof AA

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved understanding lung injury, inflammation, airway remodelling and pulmonary fibrosis.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, Scientific Reader, Chair, members of the AWERB and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around typical and worst-case scenarios for individual animals, clarification of scoring methodologies, figures for the power calculation and refinements for looking at ageing.

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

(b) Miss BB

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved rodent models for the study of *Clostridium difficile*.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, Scientific Reader, a member of the AWERB and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around toxicity testing, 24 hour monitoring, humane end points, clarification of scoring methodologies, figures for the power calculation and details for the method of oral dosing.

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

18/12 Application for secondary availability

(a) Dr CC

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved direct intracranial drug delivery for the treatment of Neurological Disease.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and the Scientific Reader. Comments primarily focused around surgical training, potential adverse effects and analgesia.

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

18/13 Non ASPA outside the UK – Dr DD

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved studying whether endogenous cyanide contributes to mortality in sepsis.

A series of comments were made by the NACWO, Chair and members of the AWERB. Comments primarily focused around potential adverse effects due to the high dose of LPS used, the ability to refine future studies and the risk of cross-contamination from tissue of unknown health status. The understanding of AWERB requirements and responsibilities for all animal work undertaken on behalf of the University of Nottingham was to be highlighted.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO and Chair would plan a communication to Dr DD, the Head of the School and more widely as appropriate.

18/14 Non ASPA - Dr EE

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved mouse cadavers for dissection.

A series of comments was made by the NACWO, the NC3Rs Representative, Chair and members of the AWERB. Comments primarily focused around the potential for cross-contamination and ethics relating to the breeding, previous housing and humane end points being conducted to the University of Nottingham expectations.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO and Chair would plan a communication to Schools on the sourcing of animals for dissections.

18/15 Summary of PPL applications and amendments

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

REPORTED: That of the applications there were two applicants which had draft applications that had been ongoing for a while.

RESOLVED: One of these applicants would continue to liaise with the previous HOI and the other applicant would meet with the new HOI.

18/16 RSPCA AWERB Lay Members' Forum (6/12/17)

CONSIDERED: A summary from the Forum in December.

REPORTED: That two AWERB members had attended the RSPCA AWERB Lay Members' Forum.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Lay Members would talk to the NACWO about reading the non-technical summaries in advance of the AWERB meetings and this being included in the new process.

(2) That an open session would be held in the summer to allow more space for the AWERB to generate ideas. An ethics seminar would be considered as part of this session.

18/17 3Rs update

REPORTED: That there was a CRACK-IT funding opportunity available and there is a replacement showcase on 19 June.

RESOLVED: (1) That the 3Rs Representative would circulate the summary from a recent 3Rs fish workshop.

(2) That members would recommend speakers and posters for a 3Rs event on 19 September.

(3) That the 3Rs Representative would investigate whether commercial research organisations (CROs) are using refined handling in mice and circulate a video and three papers on refined handling. The 3Rs Representative would also talk to the Chair about whether to present this at the next AWERB.

18/18 PPL application process working group

REPORTED: That a small group had met to streamline the process to make it quicker and improve the quality of applications. Applicants would speak to an AWERB member; speak to someone who had recently been through the process; write a first draft with a single protocol and a single objective with a focus on the immediate future (less than four years away); then develop a concise application from there. Turnaround time would be within a week of feedback and the BSU would respond within a week. Applications would be received eight weeks before the AWERB.

RESOLVED: That AWERB members, separate from the BSU, would send out a communication on the new application process to research colleagues and say that it is coming from the AWERB. This would be in discussion with the Director of BSU and the Chair.

18/19 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: That 11 project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

18/20 Project licences granted by the Home Office

REPORTED: That three project licences had been granted by the HO.

18/21 Any Other Business

(a) Annual returns and animal numbers

CONSIDERED: A summary spreadsheet showing annual returns and animal numbers.

REPORTED: That animal numbers had decreased in 2016-2017 by around 20% compared to 2015. Possible explanations include other research methods replacing animals, issues with the HO getting licences through and research staff leaving the University.

RESOLVED: That the NACWO would look in to possible explanations for reduced animal numbers including investigating the MRC and BBSRC funding as well as requests to the BSU for costings.

(b) Poultry housing to DEFRA standards

REPORTED: That Nottingham could use DEFRA standards for poultry housing.

RESOLVED: That the AWERB support the use of DEFRA standards for poultry housing as long as welfare stayed in line with current standards.