



# **ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY**

## **Minutes**

**18 March 2021**

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**19 Present, 2 Apologies, 7 In Attendance**

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### **21.16 Declarations of Interest and Quoracy**

- .1 A member of the Committee made a declaration of interest in respect to minute 21.21.1.
- .2 The Committee was quorate for the meeting.

### **21.17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 January 2021**

- .1 The minutes of the meeting 28 January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **21.18 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

#### **.1 Action Log**

- .1 The action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members. This included:
  - .1 That the planned reopening of the Hearing Research facility was on track, subject to approval from the Safety Office.
  - .2 That the new BSU service licence had been granted. A revised pro-forma would be developed to allow work to be carried out under this project licence.
  - .3 That the use of ASPEL for sharing PPL documents had been communicated to research colleagues.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.4 Create a new pro-forma for the BSU Service Licence	PPL Holder, NTCO	May 2021

#### **.2 Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 21.6]**

##### **.1 Dr AA**

- .1 The application had not been progressed by the applicant since the previous meeting.

##### **.2 Dr BB**

- .1 The application had not been progressed by the applicant since the previous meeting.

## 21.19 Chair's Business

- .1 The Chair REPORTED that a new academic staff member had joined the AWERB.
- .2 The Chair REPORTED that a new Chair of the 3Rs Committee had been appointed.

## 21.20 Presentation of CAR summary

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/14 presented by the Project Licence Holder. The presentation covered the refinements that had been made to the conditioned avoidance response (CAR) model as a response to AWERB input into the original PPL application.
- .2 The Committee NOTED the refinements had resulted in reduced exposure to aversive stimuli with no detrimental effects to the required scientific outcome.
- .3 The Committee thanked the PPL holder and the Committee member for their work.
- .4 The Committee AGREED that the PPL Holder should be encouraged to publish this work to the wider research community.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.5	Send a message to thank the PPL holder for presenting and encourage publication	Chair	May 2021
.6	Contact the PPLh to recommend that a copy of the presentation is provided to the HOI	NACWO	May 2021

## 21.21 Project Licence Applications

### .1 Dr AA

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/21/24 and AWERB/21/25 presented by Dr AA. The proposed work involved creating a model of vascular dementia to investigate the causes of vascular inflammation and facilitate the development of potential treatments.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the justification for the proposed behavioural testing methods and the most effective method of motivation.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be approved subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed, to the satisfaction of the NACWO, then the application could be submitted to the Home Office.	HOLC/AWERB Reader	May 2021

### .2 Dr BB

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/21/26, AWERB/21/27 and AWERB/21/28 presented by Dr BB. The proposed work involved using an animal model to evaluate the performance of different treatments for spinal disc degeneration.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the choice of species, the number of injections and the potential risk of the inserts rupturing. Dr BB confirmed that an experienced consultant would be assisting during the pilot studies.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be approved subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed, to the satisfaction of the NACWO, then the application could be submitted to the Home Office.	HOLC/AWERB Reader	May 2021

### .3 Dr CC

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/21/29, AWERB/21/30 and AWERB/21/31 presented by Dr CC. The proposed work involved developing and testing new materials to allow the regeneration of bones.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the practicalities of carrying out the studies and ensuring the primary investigator had the necessary skills and experience in place.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be approved subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed, to the satisfaction of the NACWO, then the application could be submitted to the Home Office.	HOLC/AWERB Reader	May 2021

## 21.22 Policy for Post-mortem Examinations

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/16 presented by the NVS. The paper proposed that post-mortem examinations be carried out as standard practice. The results of the examination would contribute to potential animal welfare refinements.
- .2 The Committee recognised that there may be logistical problems when carrying out post-mortem examinations on large animals.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>

.3	Investigate and resolve the practicalities of post-mortem examinations for large animals.	NACWO, NVS	May 2021
.4	Make recommendation to the Chair when action 21.22.3 is resolved.	NACWO	May 2021

### **21.23 Policy for Breeding and Maintenance of GA Lines of Mice**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/33 presented by the BSU breeding project licence holder. The paper proposed a default breeding strategy that all GA colony owners would adhere to.
- .2 The Committee discussed the policy. The discussion focused on the rationale behind the policy, to avoid loss of valuable GA colonies, and the potential to deviate from the policy with appropriate scientific justification and agreement of the project licence holder and Named Persons.
- .3 The Committee APPROVED the policy.

### **21.24 2020 Return of Procedures**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/32 and AWERB/21/33 presented by the NACWO.
- .2 There was a 32% reduction in the number of animals used in research at the University of Nottingham in 2020 as compared to 2019 as a result of reduced activity during the COVID restrictions.
- .3 The number of animals classed as undergoing severe procedures had increased by 0.79% since 2019. This small increase had been investigated and was linked to specific authorised experimental protocols. Refinements are in place to mitigate the impact in future years.

### **21.25 Results of Annual Rodent Health Screening 2021**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/17 presented by the NACWO.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that the results of the comprehensive non-sacrificial 2021 annual health screening using PCR testing were negative for all agents that had been tested for. These included viruses, bacteria, mycoplasma, fungi and endo-parasites.

### **21.26 Summary of PPL Applications and Amendments**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments was available.

### **21.27 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/21/18, AWERB/21/19, AWERB/21/20, AWERB/21/21, AWERB/21/22 and AWERB/21/23.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that six project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

## **21.28 Project Licences Granted by the Home Office**

The Committee NOTED that one project licence had been granted by the Home Office.

## **21.29 Any Other Business**

### **.1 BSU Staffing Levels**

#### **.1 This item was moved to the next meeting**

#### **.2 Use of Data from International Studies**

- .1 The Committee were asked to advise on the use of existing and new data obtained from an international study, where the housing and welfare standards were not in line with the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act and the Code of Practice.
- .2 The Committee discussed the proposal and the potential responses. The discussion focused on the potential benefits of the work, the re-use of existing data and the standards the establishment would need to meet before Nottingham would consider working with any new data obtained from the studies.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.3 To confirm that Nottingham would undertake work with existing data, classing it as re-use of data.	Chair	May 2021
.4 To undertake a full review of the proposed work before committing to use of any new data.	Sub-Committee	May 2021

### **.3 Resignation of Chair**

- .1 The Committee thanked the Chair for his service and wished him well in his new role.