
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 17 January 2017 @ 1pm in Camden Council Room videolinked to F82 Hawkshead

1 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2 **PROJECT LICENCE PRESENTATION**

The project licence holder was welcomed to the meeting. He was looking to submit a new licence for approval relating to providing *in vivo* services. The work would be carried out on behalf of a company creating novel medicines targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs).

The main benefit of the licence would be to identify potential innovative therapies for clinical disease states for which there was a high unmet need, such as chronic liver disease and CNS disorders including Alzheimer's disease and motor neuron disease.

AWERB raised several queries with the project licence holder and tasked him to obtain some additional information. They also asked for reassurance that the company were researching novel compounds, rather than developing compounds for targets that already have drugs developed for them.

AWERB were of the consensus that more information was required in order to understand the rationale of the project licence and to be able to weigh up the benefits that might accrue from the project licence versus the harm done to the animals.

3 **MODEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT LICENCE**

The project licence holder provided an update on the work that was being done under this project licence. A set series of experiments had been carried out, along with a rationale of what they were looking for in these drugs. The results had been in line with expectations.

The scientists were currently reviewing the data from the latest studies and were intending to conduct further formulation trials.

4 **SUPPLY OF TISSUES – WORDING FOR PUBLICATIONS**

A request had been received for a form of words relating to the ethics for a paper that was being published in relation to samples provided by the RVC for their studies.

It was agreed that the wording should be: "These animals were not killed for the specific purpose of these experiments. The tissues were harvested through a tissue sharing scheme operated through the Royal Veterinary College and the experiments were carried out under the ethical approval provided by the College's Ethics and Welfare Committee".

5 LARGE ANIMAL MONITORING/HEALTH ASSESSMENTS

Following the review of teaching animals that were kept at Camden it had been agreed that the ponies and young cattle should be regularly rotated between Camden and Hawkshead. The intention was that some kind of welfare assessment would be done before and during each rotation to see what effect being kept in Camden for teaching had on the animals. AWERB were keen that there be a systematic evaluation of the behaviour and welfare consequences of keeping the animals at Camden for teaching purposes to make sure that the benefits to the students outweighed the harm to the animals. It was suggested that someone from the welfare team should be involved with the assessment so they could advise what should be looked out for and when the assessments should be done and what information should be recorded, in order to provide indicators of their welfare and behaviour.

6 NVS REPORTS

6.1 Dog Score Sheet

A welfare monitoring and action/endpoints document for the dog project had been put together and circulated for comment.

AWERB agreed that the following welfare monitoring should be put in place:

- Weighing Monday and Thursday immediately prior to feeding
- Daily health monitoring checklist for each dog, done shortly after feeding
- Daily monitoring of hydration status

7 ESTATES ISSUES

7.1 BSU Camden

The Ethics and Welfare Committee would be doing a tour of BSU Camden facilities as part of their next meeting on 26th January.

8 PROJECT LICENCES

AWERB noted that one new Home Office project licence had been granted and one amended.

9 PROJECT LICENCES MID TERM REVIEWS

The mid term reviews were noted. In particular, they were pleased to note the outcome of some collaborative work done to determine whether a new type of heart donor ‘circulatory determined death donor’ should be tried: this was now being applied to clinical practice with significant impact on the number of heart donors available.

10 PROJECT LICENCES END OF LICENCE REVIEW

The end of project licence reviews were noted.

11 NEW PUBLICATIONS

11.1 Delivering Effective Ethical Review: the AWERB as a “forum for discussion”

AWERB were encouraged to read this report, which provides guidance, ideas and examples to help AWERB fulfil this task and to help ensure that ethical issues are acknowledged and discussed whenever they arise. A copy would be placed on the intranet along with these summary minutes.

