
Minutes: AWERB Summary minutes: PPL meeting

Status: FINAL

Meeting held: Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 9.30am via MS Teams

Present:

14 plus 1 in attendance, 6 by invitation and 8 apologies

1 WELCOME

A new NACWO and NVS were welcomed to the meeting.

2 PROJECT LICENCE AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

The Project Licence Holder (PPL Holder) was welcomed to the meeting. It was explained that he was applying for an amendment to a new project licence application that was currently under review by the Home Office. He was in the process of applying for a grant, which if successful, the funder would need confirmation that ethical approval for the proposed work in the grant, was in place. As the project licence had not yet been granted, it meant that it had not been possible to do the amendment directly on ASPeL. Instead a template had been compiled that asked the same questions that would be required for ASPeL but did mean that it was in a different format than usual.

The proposed study would compare two methods of administering amoxicillin/clavulanic acid in the bloodstreams of seriously-ill dogs. One group would receive a very short infusion, and the other group a 3 hour infusion. The aim was to increase the scope of infections that could be successfully treated with this antimicrobial in practice. The project would build on previous work done by the group and could have the following potential benefits:

- Recommendation to infuse IV amoxicillin clavulanic acid (AMC) for 3h in critically-ill dogs to be directly implementable, aligning with current human guidelines (Surviving Sepsis Campaign)
- Opportunities for individualised therapies and multicentric clinical trials focussed on clinical outcome
- Advocating for re-evaluation of Clinical Breakpoints for IV therapy (8mg/L) was achievable.
- Promote stewardship as more AMC-susceptible isolates remove pressure to turn to WHO critically important antimicrobials
- Potential for development of licensed veterinary AMC preparation if more utility IV.

A couple of queries were raised but AWERB confirmed that they were happy with the proposed amendment.

3 PROJECT LICENCE AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

The PPL Holder and 2 colleagues were welcomed to the meeting. They explained that they were wanting to make several changes to the project licence:

- Changes to a protocol to add different dose routes, to broaden the types of drug that could be administered and widen the aims to compare their exosome products to corresponding therapeutics for preliminary safety and PD
- Addition of a protocol to allow the use of a PKU mouse model
- Addition of another protocol to allow breeding of healthy reporter mice.

AWERB raised several queries/recommendations about the project licence including suggesting carrying out literature reviews to see what work had already been done and to continue with small pilot studies to build up information. AWERB asked that the project licence be amended to take into account their comments and then recirculated for a further review.

4 **NEW PROJECT LICENCE DISCUSSION**

The PPL Holder was welcomed to the meeting. She was applying for a project licence that would involve viral vectors for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. The plan was to mainly use sheep though there was an option of also using mini pigs in the future. The intention was to do preclinical work and provide proof of concept for the regulators. The numbers of animals used was based on what had been done previously and how many potential cases they might have.

It was noted that the project planned to use only female animals. Were there any scientific implications? It was explained that this was down to logistics. Female sheep were a lot easier to handle than male sheep. Males also posed more anaesthesia problems as urinary catheters could not be placed; they got very high potassium levels, had denser muscles and more muscle breakdown under anaesthesia. Also, the amount of data that could be obtained from small animal work related to hormones was much better.

The PPL Holder was thanked for attending the meeting. There were a few things that needed to be amended and adjusted. Once this had been done, the revised copy of the project licence would be circulated to AWERB for another review.

5 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 April 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

6 **MATTERS ARISING/ACTION LOG**

6.1 **Item 2.1: Goats at Camden (6 April 2022 meeting)**

A decision had still not been received about whether goats would be used for teaching purposes. However, in the interim the environment would be looked at to decide what changes would be needed to accommodate goats.

6.2 **Item 2.1: Teaching Ponies (6 April 2022 meeting)**

Discussions have been held and agreement obtained that it would be sensible to have just one pool of teaching ponies at Hawkshead.

6.3 **Item 2.2: Communicating the role of AWERB to PhD students (6 April 2022 meeting)**

Three different versions of the presentation that had been given in the past to the PhD students on the role of AWERB had now been provided. These were being reviewed to decide which was the most up to date version to use. No response had yet been received about whether it was possible to include a talk on AWERB as part of one of the seminar series.

6.4 **Item 2.5: BSU Virtual Tour Story board (06 April 2022 meeting)**

Comments on the storyboard had been provided. A meeting would be arranged to discuss the comments and the next steps.

6.5 Item 2.6: Tissue sharing requests (6 April 2022 meeting)

A meeting would be arranged to discuss this further.

6.6 Item 8: AWERB Terms of Reference: Responsibility for the various groups of animals that were at the College (30 November 2021 meeting)

The Ethics and Welfare Committee's advice had been sought about the wildlife at the College and ensuring that any strategies used in relation to wildlife (including pests and vermin) were ethically acceptable. It had been agreed that a check should be made with Estates that they only used humane methods for capture and disposal of pests; and whether the sustainability policies covered wildlife such as bees and the farming policies in relation to the natural habitat.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

This was scheduled for 3 May 2022 at 2pm.