
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 27 September 2016

1 **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: REVIEW OF PROJECT**

The Scientists had been invited to the meeting to provide a review of this project as it involved the schedule 1 of pigs on (an approximately) monthly basis. The aim of the project was to investigate methods of decontaminating skin of a number of chemicals and pig skin was the best model for this until alternative cell culture systems that replicate the full thickness skin organ could be produced.

A query was raised about why abattoirs could not be used to source the pig skin. It was explained that due to the cleaning processes used by abattoirs the stratum corneum would be damaged; removing the dorsum skin would expose the meat and potentially result in the meat not passing inspection; finally the pigs that were required needed to be about 25 kg (due to hair follicle size) whereas the pigs sent to slaughter weighed approximately 75kg.

Another query was raised about what factors determined the number of animals required for the study. It was explained that power calculations were used based on previous work. They were focusing however on trying to reduce the number and amount of animals used within this research.

2 **NEW PROJECT LICENCE**

An application for a new project licence (to replace an existing one) had been received, to have secondary availability at the RVC.

The research under this project would principally involve influenza vaccines. Methods were also being investigated, to evaluate alternative supplies of these materials that would not require the use of animals.

3 **NEW PROJECT LICENCE**

It was explained that urinary incontinence was experienced by up to 17% of the population in the UK and the cost of management was over £500 million per annum to the NHS. This severe problem was not only associated with tremendous costs, but with a significant decrement in health-related quality of life. Bladder augmentation was used surgically both in children and adults with end-stage bladder disease or urinary incontinence to provide a low-pressure, compliant urine-storage reservoir.

The aim of this programme was to investigate an innovative technique for bladder reconstruction. The aim was to create a new bladder using cells that have been grown in laboratory. The primary outcome would be to demonstrate the success of the technique *in vivo*, using human tissues in order to proceed towards realising the first clinical translation and perform this technique in patients who were candidates for bladder augmentation.

4 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

4.1 Sharing of resources

A newsfeed style database was being set up. The intention was that people could post comments in sharepoint about available tissues to make tissue sharing across the College a lot easier.

4.2 Rat/mouse handling policy for Rodent Handling group

This had been amended to take into account comments received. The policy would be circulated by e-mail for sign off.

5 NVS REPORT

5.1 Camden

The building work was progressing.

5.2 Cages

There should be a move away from open cages to IVC throughout the unit as not only would it minimize the risk of infection it would also reduce exposure to allergens. Some IVCs had been obtained from Mill Hill.

5.3 Humane Euthanasia

A Good Death? Report of the Second Newcastle Meeting on Laboratory Animal Euthanasia Animals (2016); 6 (9), 50; doi:[10.3390/ani6090050](https://doi.org/10.3390/ani6090050)

It was recommended that AWERB should read this paper. The main point was the suggestion of using isoflurane to render animals unconscious prior to exposure to high levels of CO₂ as a schedule 1 euthanasia method.

5.4 Dogs

Two dogs had been rehomed.

6 ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

AWERB noted the rooms that had been added to the licence.

7 PROJECT LICENCES

Two new project licences had been approved since the previous meeting. Two licences had also been amended.

8 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

Condition 18 reports that had been submitted since the last meeting were discussed. The reports have been placed on file at the Home Office.

9 STUDY FORMS

Four study forms had been approved.

10 HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE FILES

These were reviewed.