
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 21 February @ 10am in Camden Council Room videolinked to F82 Hawkshead

1 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

2 BSU USERS INTERNAL NEWSFEED STYLE SHAREPOINT SITE

This had now been set up and the link circulated to BSU Users. AWERB were asked to put forward items that could be included such as reports from meetings; interesting papers; news alerts such as changes to cage sizes; equipment that was available; new facilities (such as the new stables). The aim was for this to contribute to our community of care but it needed people to actively contribute to the newsfeed.

3 FILMING

A query had been raised with the Home Office Inspector in relation to filming of procedures under a project licence. Her advice was:

“Under ASPA, it is an offence to perform procedures as an exhibition to the public or to be shown live on television. It is not an offence to film procedures for later editing or broadcast. Conducting a procedure for the sole purpose of broadcast is not permitted however.

So in summary, you would be permitted to film your animals within the limits explained above (see section 1.9 of the Home Office Guidance too). You don't need authority specifically in the PPL for the filming. Obviously there is potentially a security risk (to you, staff, and the establishment) with regard to collecting video material if it gets into the wrong hands, and is then shared on social media for example, which as you can imagine is an increasingly common issue. We would not advise on the specifics of security and handling – this should be discussed with the Establishment Licence and other local advisers”.

4 IN VIVO STUDY ADJUSTMENT

Due to some unexpected deaths of animals during this study (that were not related to the study) the project licence holder wanted to extend the animal numbers, in order to not compromise data integrity due to there being insufficient animals for adequate statistical power. The intention was to add 6 animals to each group, integrate them into the study so that there was an overlap and repeat the study. The Home Office Inspector had agreed with this approach, but would be providing advice to the Project Licence Holder for future studies, to avoid this scenario in the future.

AWERB queried what impact this would have on the overall study. They were reassured that the new animals added to the study would be treated in exactly the same way as the existing animals so that the data should be viable.

After discussion, it was agreed that the College statistician should meet with the project licence holder to discuss the statistical analysis of the study to make sure it was sound before she met with the Home Office Inspector. If the statistician was content that the project was statistically viable then AWERB were content for a request for the numbers to be increased to be submitted to the Home Office.

5 SCHEDULE 1 LIST

This list was reviewed

6 STANDARD POLICY FOR HANDLING RATS AND MICE

The College's standard policy for handling rats and mice had been reviewed against the NC3Rs recommended methods.

The conclusion was that there were merits to the different methods of handling rodents and that handlers should use their judgement in which method to use whilst encouraging the use of tunnels. It was suggested that there should be a research project to compare the two methods further (in particular the welfare benefits for tunnelling and cupping) with advice provided by the animal welfare team for designing the study.

It was important to ensure that the standards of handling were the same at both campuses, particularly as handlers at Hawkshead would be less experienced than those at Camden. It was important that rodents were not picked up by their tails as this would stress and upset them.

7 MEETING WITH HOME OFFICE INSPECTOR

The Establishment Licence Holder and BSU Manager) would be having their annual risk discussion meeting with the Home Office Inspector. Before the meeting, a list of major achievements relating to work done under A(SP)A over the past year needed to be compiled. The following suggestions were made:

- Working groups have been set up such as the sharing resources working group
- Environmental enrichment working group
- Dog socialisation programme
- Improvements for the teaching ponies and cows in alternating them between the two campuses and improving their environment. Olivia Morgan would be coming to Camden to assess the ponies whilst they were at Camden and then again when they went back to Hawkshead.
- Dogs no longer kept at Camden for teaching
- Improvement of facilities at Camden and would be improving facilities at Hawkshead
- New stables at Hawkshead
- Improved systematic training in aseptic techniques.
- Efficiency of breeding: using "spare" animals for schedule 1 training and handling practice.
- Case studies provided on the website (though more were needed)
- Intention was for the Home Office figures for the animals used to be placed on the website

8 PROJECT LICENCE DISCUSSION:

The Project Licence Holder was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that she was applying for a new project licence to replace her current licence which was due to expire. The project licence would have secondary availability at the RVC.

There were three aims to the project licence:

1. Evaluation of glycoprotein hormone products:
2. Generation of antibodies for in vitro assays:

3. Evaluation of biological medicines

After hearing about the project licence, AWERB had no concerns to raise.

9 2ND PROJECT LICENCE PRE-DISCUSSION

It was explained that the intention was to add secondary availability to this licence so that work could be done at the RVC. It was noted that the project licence was still going through ethical review at the primary institution and it was agreed for future licence applications, they should only to the RVC once they had been through the AWERB at the primary institution.

10 2ND PROJECT LICENCE

As the project licence holder had been unable to make the meeting, the RVC person who would be working on the project licence attended.

This project aimed to advance understanding of the in vivo deployment of hollow organ biomaterial scaffolds, to inform future clinical trials. This would be done by:

- Assessing in vivo safety, biocompatibility, durability, and function of scaffolds made from natural, synthetic and hybrid biomaterials;
- Assessing strategies for improving cell repair and regeneration within these scaffolds and integration into surrounding host tissues
- Assessing cell harvest, culture and scaffold recellularisation techniques to determine the optimum cell type, combination and delivery system for scaffold seeding;
- Assessing and refining optimal surgical strategies for hollow organ tissue-engineered replacement.

Additional availability at the RVC was being requested for the large animal work, as the primary institution did not have the facilities required.

AWERB discussed the relevance of the project to veterinary work and agreed there would be an impact for dogs. The question was the success rate of this surgery and whether it would result in a good quality of life afterwards for the animals. It was also likely that there would be indirect benefits such as improvements in anaesthetic protocols or aftercare.

11 3RD PROJECT LICENCE PRESENTATION

Following the previous meeting, the project licence holder and a scientist from the group conducting the programme of research had been invited back to provide more information about the proposed project licence programme and the background to the work done. It was explained that the group were keen to work with the RVC as they had previously collaborated on another project so already had a successful working relationship. The relatively close proximity between the RVC was also advantageous as the timing between sampling and further analysis was vital. The studies carried out at the RVC would involve further development of interesting compounds at pharmacological efficacious doses to investigate dose coverage, distribution/update in specific tissues of interest.

The group would be publishing papers on their results as they agreed that it was important to disseminate knowledge to others doing similar research so that they could see what had worked or what had not worked.

It would be a generic project licence to use the techniques for several purposes. It was therefore important to the College to understand the decision making process for the compounds and to receive feedback on what was being developed and why the research at the College was needed. It was confirmed that the group would be happy to come back to the College and give feedback on their work. The group were happy to provide a rationale for requested experiments and seek approval for them going ahead.

AWERB discussed the presentation and agreed that it had been useful to hear more about the aims of the group and their approach to drug development. AWERB were also reassured that they were a good quality group who were looking at the science behind the work they were doing. It had been reassuring to hear that they were keen to disseminate information but this would be checked as part of the mid term reviews of the project licence where they would be asked what information had been published up to that point.

It was recognised that it could be difficult to publish negative results though as majority of papers did not want to publish negative results and also researchers did not want to spend a lot of time writing about them.

12 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

AWERB noted that two reports had been submitted to the Home Office.

13 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

13.1 Sharing of resources group

A meeting had been held on 19th January. There was now a news style feed on sharepoint for people to put if they had tissues to share or were looking for tissues to use. A training rack had also been set up of mice that could be used for schedule 1 training and for training in mice handling.

14 ESTATES

14.1 Camden

There had been fluctuations in the humidities of rooms. This would be raised at the next meeting with Estates.

14.2 Hawkshead

There was a BSU Replacement Plan Project meeting scheduled for 1 March. The focus was on planning the plant replacement at Hawkshead and the refurbishment of rooms.

The stables were nearly finished.

15 PROJECT LICENCE AMENDMENTS

AWERB noted that two project licences had been amended since the last meeting.

16 PROJECT LICENCES – MID TERM REVIEWS

AWERB noted the mid term review that had been submitted and the comments that had been raised.

17 PROJECT LICENCES – END OF LICENCE REVIEW

AWERB noted the two end of licence reviews.