
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 23 November 2016

1 **PROJECT LICENCE PRESENTATION**

AWERB received a presentation about a proposed new project licence which would relate to tendon injury and regenerative medicine. The primary expected benefit from this research was the generation of new knowledge, defining how endogenous progenitor cells behave in tendon injury and repair. The data generated may have far reaching implications for the treatment of tendinopathy, both in humans and large animals, benefitting patients and clinicians by contributing to the development of effective cell-based therapies and new physiotherapeutic rationales, which would ultimately reduce the economic and health burden caused by tendon injury.

This would be the researcher's first project licence and AWERB agreed that it was important that the researcher be well supported by both experienced BSU staff and also scientists in order to progress the work and obtain their advice and help on the surgery needed.

It was also important that there were pilot studies as the licence would involve a lot of new work where it was not known what adverse effects there might be. It was agreed that progress of the project licence should be reviewed after the pilot studies had been undertaken.

AWERB were of the consensus that the research was important and should be supported.

2 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 **Schedule 1 list:** This was being reviewed.

3.2 **Tours of BSU as part of the induction programme**
This was being discussed with HR.

3.3 **Discussion forum for undergraduate students:**
Discussions were being undertaken with the strand leader for the year four professional studies module to include discussion sessions on animals use in research as part of the ethics teaching.

3.4 **Standard policy for handling rats and mice**
Cupping and tunnel handling were being taught in the handling courses.

3.5 **Code of practice for the housing and care of animals bred, supplied or used for scientific purposes**
The NACWOs would be reviewing to ensure that the College was compliant for all species.

3.6 Guiding principles for NTCOs, NIOs and HOLCs working under A(SP)A

The NTCOs would be looking at the current policies, processes and record keeping against these principles to see if there were any changes needed and would report back by March 2017.

For the NIO role, the role needed to be covered by all the named people (i.e. NVS, NACWOs and HOLC). It was suggested that there should be a page on the intranet, which gathered together standard guidance information and kept this updated. AWERB would decide who the information should be disseminated to each month. General dissemination would be by BSU Users Newsletter.

The committee encouraged the practice of informal presentations by PPL holders and their staff to technical staff within the units to encourage exchange of information.

4 NVS REPORTS

4.1 Camden

The Camden report was noted. A copy of a paper called “Reducing suffering in animal models and procedures involving seizures, convulsions and epilepsy” had been circulated which could be used as a reference point to detect signs of epilepsy. A copy would be placed on the intranet.

4.2 Hawkshead

The report was noted.

5 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

5.1 Sharing of resources group

A Sharing of Resources database has been established. The group were due to meet again in Jan 2017. It was agreed that the Establishment Licence Holder should e-mail all PIL and PPL Holders to inform them of the database and encourage them to use it.

5.2 Efficient Breeding of Genetically Altered Animals Group

The tick over colonies were being monitoring and an analysis statement provided to the next meeting.

6 REVIEW HOME OFFICE ADVICE NOTE RELATING TO USE, KEEPING ALIVE AND REUSE

This had been reviewed by the NVS. The document was primarily intended to provide operational guidelines to aid consistent interpretation of terms relating to use and re-use of protected animals. The NVS was confident that the RVC were following the guidelines.

The NVS noted a suitably qualified person (such as a NACWO) who has overall knowledge of the animal might sometimes be the best person to decide on re-use rather than the NVS.

7 PROJECT LICENCES GRANTED

One project licence had been granted that had secondary availability since the previous meeting.

8 END OF PROJECT LICENCE REVIEW

The end of project licence review for a project licence was noted. There had been several papers published as a result of the work done.

9 STUDY REQUESTS

One study request had been approved since the previous meeting. A refinement relating to the positioning of the lambs on the table, had resulted in much less post-operative lameness being seen.

10 PRESENTATION FROM PPL HOLDER

This was an application to continue work for an existing project licence which was due to expire shortly. The primary purpose of the licence was to permit the ethical conduct of phase II to IV veterinary clinical trials of new drugs, devices and techniques involving veterinary patients with naturally occurring disease which could not be conducted under the Veterinary Surgeons Act or Animal Test Certificate.

A query was raised about what the process was when an animal got sick but were still signed onto the project licence. AWERB were satisfied with the arrangements in place to deal with this.

AWERB confirmed that they were supportive of the aims of the project licence; namely doing research on clinical patients that have the disease that is being researched. The committee felt that the ability to do this work under ASPA with owner informed consent reduced reliance on model studies and improved the quality of clinical research without harming the animals involved.

The protocols on the new project licence were all studies that had been approved previously by AWERB. All new protocols would continue coming to AWERB for approval.

AWERB agreed that this project licence should be submitted to the Home Office.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 15th December at 1pm.

Secretary

25 November 2016