

Minutes

Date Wednesday, 04/02/2026

Time 9:00 AM

To Committee Members

At Virtual via MS Teams

Subject AWERB 3Rs Committee

Our Ref Doc.AWERB.3Rs.04.02.26

In attendance: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Minutes from the meetings held on 03/12/25 & 07/01/26.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meetings held on 03/12/25 & 07/01/26.

3. Retrospective Reviews / Retrospective Assessments

a) [REDACTED] - Profiling of test agents in rodents in a drug discovery platform – RR

The committee discussed the following:

- Clarification needed regarding animals listed as severe in section 2.3, Protocol 6.
- The need to check the first sentence in section 2.5, Protocol 9.
- NO to be selected as answers to the questions and reasons for this answer to be given in section 2.9.
- Clarification needed regarding species used in the table in section 2.12.
- The removal of the repeated sentence in the second paragraph in Section 3.1.
- The good work carried out with the collection of tissue samples in section 3.2.
- The amending of wording used in section 3.3.
- The need to include refinements mentioned in other sections in section 3.7.
- The inclusion of information regarding the award given for the poster presented at LASA.

b) [REDACTED] - Development of an implantable device for the treatment of brain tumours – RR

The committee discussed the following:

- The need to amend the severity detailed in the table in Section 2.1.
- The need for additional information regarding exceeding severity limits and the need for each section for each protocol to be completed in Section 2.2.
- The review of the response given in Section 2.5.



- Additional information is needed regarding why there was no animal waste in Section 2.7.
 - The completion of the explanation box if No is a response to a question in Section 2.9.
 - The need for additional information in Section 2.10.
 - Additional information regarding the replacement method used is needed in Section 3.1
 - The need to revisit and review the response given in Section 3.2.
 - The need to revisit and review the response given in Section 3.6.
 - Consideration to be given to using a strikethrough when answering Yes or No questions throughout the form and in Section 3.7.
 - The need to replace the hyperlink in Section 3.7.
 - Additional information required regarding the need for endpoint modification in Section 3.9.
 - The correct schedule 1 method used to be detailed in Section 3.10.
 - The review of the response given in Section 4.4.
 - Yes or no to be answered for the question in Section 4.7.
 - The need to revisit and review Section 4.8.
 - The rephrasing or expanding of the answer given in Section 4.9.
 - The inclusion of additional information relating to key staff members leaving, affecting the licence management in Section 5.4.
- c) [REDACTED] - The role of the immune system in cardiovascular disease – RA
- The committee discussed the following:
- Further information needed regarding why animals were assigned to the wrong protocols and the need to review the numbers listed in Section 2.2.
 - The need to review terminology used, and in the 4th paragraph clarification needed regarding animal numbers in Section 2.3. Additionally, the same text to be amended in Section 5.2.
 - The calculations and information to be reviewed in protocol 6 and additional information regarding the animals listed on protocols 7 and 8 needed in Section 2.4.
 - Additional information regarding why the genotype cannot be used and whether the use of tissue sharing schemes has been considered needed in Section 2.7. Additionally, if such schemes were used this should be detailed in Section 3.3.
 - The reviewing of estimated numbers detailed in the second box in Section 2.7.
 - The reviewing of the information relating to specific genotypes in protocol 3, Section 2.7.
 - The checking of the details regarding imports from other institutes, Section 2.11.
 - The reviewing of the total numbers detailed in protocol 4, Section 2.12.
 - Additional information regarding non-animal alternatives needed in Section 3.1.
 - Justifications for reductions to be included in Section 3.2.
 - Consideration to be given to the rewording of point 3, Section 3.2.
 - Additional details needed to explain how animals are accessible to other researchers in Section 3.3.
 - Additional animal model details needed in Section 3.4.
 - Additional details needed regarding refinements made in Section 3.5.
 - Additional details needed regarding refinements made in Section 3.7.
 - The reviewing of the answer given in Section 3.10.
 - The reviewing of the listed publications in Section 4.8.
 - The inclusion of the SC18 report dated 12th February 2025 in Section 5.3.

4. Project Licence Applications – New / Amendments

- a) [REDACTED] - Characterising and targeting fibroblast composition and roles in pancreatic inflammation, primary tumours, metastases, and cachexia – Severe Severity Application – Protocols 3, 4, 5, 6

The committee discussed the following:

- The correction of the typographical error in the Refinement section of the non-technical summary.
- The need for additional information regarding genetic drift to assist the lay reader in the Refinement section of the non-technical summary.
- Additional information regarding the type of food given to be added to the Refinement section of the non-technical summary.
- The inclusion of Protocol 7 in the fate list in step 4 of Protocol 1.
- The need for additional information regarding facility guidelines in step 1 of Protocol 3.
- Additional information needed regarding strength tests in the animal experience section of step 8 of Protocol 3.
- Additional information needed regarding severity limits in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- Clarification of the period of time needed in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- The inclusion of information regarding the assessment of animal condition in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- Consideration to be given to the rewording of the answer given in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- The reviewing of the wording 'at end point' in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- The reviewing of the wording 'some animals. Animal proportions to be included in the Animal experience section of Protocol 3.
- The need to include humane endpoint information relating to previously mentioned eye abnormalities in the Animal experience section of Protocol 5.
- The need to review the weight loss endpoint in the Animal experience section of Protocol 5.
- The inclusion of general humane endpoints for the new phenotype in the Animal experience section of Protocol 5.

5. NIO Reports

The NIO report was circulated prior to the meeting. [REDACTED] asked the committee if they knew of anyone who would like to volunteer at the Cambridge Science Festival to please let her know. December 2025 had the lowest number of SC18's ever reported. [REDACTED] highlighted the quality of the new RSPCA and LASA guidelines for AWERB Committees.

6. Minutes of the AOC meeting – 19/12/25

The minutes were noted.

Date of next meeting: 4th March 2026