

Minutes

Date Wednesday, 04/03/2026

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:

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. Minutes

Minutes from the meetings held on 04/02/26 were approved

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes from the meeting held on 04/02/26

3. Retrospective Reviews / Retrospective Assessments

- a) [REDACTED] Discovery and development of treatments for immunological diseases - RR

The committee discussed the following:

- The inclusion of the new PPL holders name in Section 1.D.
- The need for additional details regarding the severe severity for Protocol 1 in Section 2.2.
- The need to include SC18 dates and the percentage of animals affected in Section 2.3.
- The need for further information regarding why rats have not been used in each protocol in Section 2.5.
- The inclusion of additional information regarding unforeseen loss of animals in Section 2.7.
- Consideration to be given to the relevance of questions and responses given in Sections 2.8 and Section 2.9.
- Consideration to be given to adding a bitterant to topical cream mentioned in Section 3.7.
- Additional information relating to public engagement is needed in Section 4.9.

- b) D [REDACTED] - Respiratory research to support the development of treatments for lung diseases - RR

The committee discussed the following:

- The need for additional information in Section 2.5.
- The inclusion of additional information regarding unforeseen loss of animals in Section 2.7.
- Consideration to be given to the relevance of questions and responses given in Sections 2.8 and Section 2.9.



- The need for additional information in Section 3.1.
 - The need to review the amount of detail given in Section 3.5.
- c) [REDACTED] PK and PKPD studies to support Respiratory and Immunology research – RR

The committee discussed the following:

- The need to review the date in Section 1.
- The need to correct the spelling error in Protocol 1, Section 2.1.
- The need for additional information in Section 2.5.
- The inclusion of additional information regarding unforeseen loss of animals in Section 2.7.
- Consideration to be given to the relevance of questions and responses given in Sections 2.8 and Section 2.9.
- Yes or no to be answered to the question in Section 2.12.
- Consideration to be given to any refinements used that can be included in Section 3.7.

- d) [REDACTED] - Development of Live Bacterial Therapeutics for the treatment of cancer - RR

The committee discussed the following:

- The inclusion of year 4 totals in Protocols 1 and 4 of Section 2.1.
- The inclusion of the number of affected animals in Section 2.4.
- The need for further information regarding vitro methods used in Section 2.5.
- The answer 'not applicable' to be given if the questions are not relevant in Section 2.9.
- Consideration to be given to the wording used in the second sentence of Section 3.1.
- Consideration to be given to the wording used in the final sentence of Section 3.2.
- Additional information is needed to highlight the success of techniques used in Section 3.5.
- Consideration to be given to the sharing of the delivery method used in Section 3.7.
- The need to remove the name mentioned in Section 3.7.
- Consideration to be given to the sharing of the traffic light system mentioned in Section 3.8.
- Further explanation needed in Section 3.9.
- The need to review the answer given in Section 3.11.
- The need for additional information in Section 4.9.
- The need for copies of SC18 reports to be included in Section 5.2.
- The removal of tracked changes from the final document.

4. Project Licence Applications – New / Amendments

- a) [REDACTED] - Development of bioelectronic therapies for the central nervous system – Severe Severity Amendment – Protocol 4

The committee discussed the following:

- Consideration to be given to including supportive interventions in Step 5.
- Clarification needed regarding the time an animal is given to stabilise before further surgeries are carried out in Step 5 and in the Animal Experience section.
- Clarification needed regarding how the baseline weight is reset in Step 5.
- The need to amend the wording in paragraph 6 in the Animal Experience section.

- b) [REDACTED] - Regenerative Neuroimmunology Applied to Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Research – New Severe Severity Application – Protocol 1

The committee discussed the following:

- To maintain consistency, the wording clinical grade or clinical score to be used where relevant.
- The review of the reducing suffering in EAE models paper which could be referenced in the Refinement section of the Non-Technical summary.
- Consideration to be given to housing animals at higher temperatures and the inclusion of this information in the Refinement section of the Non-Technical summary.
- Consideration to be given to hand feeding animals when reduced mobility is contributing to weight loss and the inclusion of this information in the Refinement section of the Non-Technical summary.
- Consideration to be given to the provision of supplements to animals without active EAE in Step 1.
- Clarification needed regarding the need for three CFA sites in Step 2.
- The need to expand on the expected occurrence of urinary infection in Step 2.
- Consideration to be given to expanding the monitoring of urinary infections in Step 2.
- The inclusion of 4.5 on the EAE scoring system if required in Step 2.
- The reviewing of the paragraph titled 'Clinical Progression and Mouse Care and Monitoring Changes' and the instructions for each clinical score to ensure the information aligns in Step 2.
- Clarification regarding the need for increased observations if no further interventions will be made, Step 2.
- The need to ensure monitoring records are logged on MCMS and the updating of the wording in Step 2.
- Clarification needed regarding the reference to a baseline grimace score in Step 2 of Protocol 1 and Step 3 of Protocol 2.
- Consideration to be given to the inclusion of an endpoint for animals with a score of 3.5 and appear to not be recovering in Step 2.
- Consideration to be given to a humane endpoint earlier than two hours for animals with persistent clinical symptoms in Step 2.
- Consideration to be given to the impact of subcutaneous fluid replacement in Step 2.
- The inclusion of the clinical grade of animals experiencing the behavioural tests in Step 3.
- Clarification of what the statement "one-two hours depending on duration of first anaesthesia" is referring to in Step 3.
- The clarification of how the baseline weight loss will be determined in Step 6.
- The inclusion of an explanation for how animals will be monitored and treated for laboured breathing and the scientific rationale for keeping them in Step 7.
- The need for an explanation for why animals with laboured breathing will be kept for two hours before the humane endpoint is applied in Step 7.
- The need for a scientific justification for keeping animals with infected wounds in Step 8.
- The need to amend the title to reflect that Step 11 is not a humane endpoint step.
- The need to include a single housing step within the protocol as this is mentioned in the Animal Experience section.
- Consideration to be given to the inclusion of information relating to the cumulative impact for the EAE mice undergoing other procedural steps, in the Animal Experience section.
- The need for further explanations regarding the need to keep and monitor the induced and non-induced animals for up to 24 hours in the Animal Experience section.

- The need to review the answer given in the Protocol Justification section.

5. NIO Reports

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. There is an experimental design webinar hosted by Responsible Research, a link to this can be found in the report. There is also a link to the Understanding Animal Research Openness Conference being held in May. Standard Condition 18 reports were lower than usual with only 23 reports affecting 28 animals. The Cambridge Festival is being held on the last weekend of March, [REDACTED] has received a good number of volunteers to support UBS at the festival this year.

6. Minutes of the AOC meeting – 23/01/26

The minutes were noted

7. Minutes of the AWERB Standing meeting – 26/11/25 & 17/12/25

The minutes were noted.

Date of next meeting: 01/04/26 [REDACTED]