

Minutes

Date Wednesday,

Time 9:00 AM

To Committee Members

At Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Subject AWERB 3Rs Committee

In Attendance:

Minutes-

Apologies –

1. Minutes

The previous minutes were approved

2. Matters Arising

confirmed – none

3. Retrospective Reviews

- Regulation of embryonic lineages and stem cells

The committee commended on a well written Retrospective Review –

2.1 – The 3Rs committee note that overall less animals were used than predicted, and so hope that this will help best-estimate numbers for the new licence.

2.3 - The committee note that 84 mice (6.2%) in the mild protocol 5 experienced severe severity because of being found dead with no previous symptoms. The committee would like to provide some more context or information on this (e.g., strain, age etc), or update the form to include what the working hypothesis or conclusion is as to what caused this? Have any changes to th colony management been made, e.g., regarding monitoring etc?

2.5 – The 3Rs committee were impressed to read about the Reduction achieved in protocol 2 with the new use of chimeric embryos – The committee would like to help celebrate this. The 3Rs Committee may be in touch regarding publishing this on our website.

2.8 – The 3Rs committee asked whether archives any of her lines, and if so, could details of such be added here?

3.1 - The 3Rs committee recognise the lab's significant contributions to the development of "gastruloids" – as a Replacement is it possible to estimate a % reduction in animal numbers achieved? We would like to help celebrate this, the 3Rs Committee may be in touch regarding publishing this on our website?

4.5 & 4.8 – The committees note and commend your extraordinary level of output achieved from the licence. The committee would like to know if any of these papers contain 3Rs achievements, if so they should be highlighted in bold? Please advise if any are pending publication.



4. Severe Severity Review

Moved to October meeting – with the return of [REDACTED] as Chair.

Aim is to plan a process that is diligent enough yet not over burdening neither the researchers nor the AWERB committee. Aim to be additive, not duplicative.

5. Presentation

6. Standard Condition 18 reports

7. 3Rs information/reports

8. Feedback from previous Retrospective Reviews*

9. Highlights of AWERB Standing meeting*

10. Highlights of January AOC meeting*

11. Any Other Business

The AWERB 3Rs Committee would like to thank [REDACTED] for his excellent work as chair of this committee, standing in for [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] thanked the members of the committee for making the job of chair so straight forward and offered his future services as required.

He thanked the Secretariat [REDACTED] MRCVS for her work, and for the whole team for the more proactive and dynamic processes being encouraged of the committee.

He suggested that in the future occasional in-person meetings would be beneficial.

[REDACTED], Director of Governance and Welfare, added in her thanks and gratitude for [REDACTED] dedication.

Action point

[REDACTED] confirm the start time of the meeting with [REDACTED], for his return next month.

New Resources

RSCPA Focus on Severe suffering

Text samples from the website resource were shared with the committee.

The committee noted the strong Cambridge link in creating this resource.

Advice contained regarding databases directly relates to MCMS. It was agreed that this was worth promoting – alongside the Severe Severity Reviews, workshops or other discussion forums, utilising links with LASA, more ideas welcome.

Action Point

Bring this to the next meeting alongside the Severe Severity Review discussion.

NC3Rs Animal free in-vitro technologies

Text samples from the website article were shared with the committee.

The committee were of the opinion that anyone who could make use of these is likely already doing so. A policy paper or public outreach article was thought best to demonstrate how much the University is already doing alongside the limitations that this was not yet offering a complete replacement.



Coordinating outreach with others at Cambridge, e.g., [REDACTED] of the Wellcome - MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute, was thought to be a good avenue to explore.

Action Point

Ask [REDACTED] for thoughts next month on a possible future collaboration.

NC3Rs 3Rs Self-Assessment tool

Information was presented on the new Establishment tool and Researcher tool, from an RSCPA training webinar. Future industry use and validation of such a tool currently unknown – either for promotional use or grant/ PPL application use. Future internal use and relevance of the tool was discussed. A trial to discover researcher feedback was discussed.

Action Point

[REDACTED] agreed to trial the Researcher tool and report back to the committee next meeting, ahead of running a trial survey of 5x new PPL holders at the time of writing their PPLs, and 5x one-year-in first time PPL holders, for opinion on usefulness. [REDACTED] may wish to explore the Establishment tool also.

Single Use of Needles

The committee felt that it showed promise – no major alterations/ concerns raised. Specific instrument brands should not be promoted, but examples may be given. Remove references of reusable needles – the document should only reference single use needles by design. Recirculate once finished, then add to the website alongside CFA guidance.

Action Point

[REDACTED] MRCVS to finish and submit to the subsequent meeting.

Welcome to [REDACTED] new NIO

[REDACTED] thanked us for the invite to the meeting and gave a biography of her experience and training.

AOB

Retrospective Review Form updates will come to October's meeting

Date of next meeting: 6th October 2021

***Items for information only unless un-starred by committee member**