



Minutes

Date Wednesday, 03/03/2021

Time 09.00am

To Committee Members

At Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Subject AWERB 3Rs Committee

In Attendance:

[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

The previous minutes were approved

2. Matters Arising

3. Retrospective Reviews

The committee discussed the following:

- [REDACTED] - Environmental programming of phenotype during pregnancy and early life. **Change of PPLh**
- In section 2.1, please could the accuracy of filling in the table be checked, especially with respect to the Totals rows.
- In section 2.4, are there standard condition 18 forms for the animals lost under protocols 8, 9 and 13?
- The committee thanked [REDACTED] for the detail given in section 2.7 about the multiple pregnant ewes and the events during the COVID outbreak.
- The committee would like to know what [REDACTED] is doing (or has looked into) to reduce sheep wastage due to multiple pregnancies – be it by herd management, or by externally sourcing pregnant sheep?
- In section 2.7 the committee applaud the intent to use more of the male stock to reduce wastage – would this be across all lines, or how many?
- The committee would also like clarification around how much more than 50% wastage of the GM mice breeding has been experienced.
- The committee would like to know about breeding strategies – how is [REDACTED] managing the colonies to match experimental requirements?
- Have any alterations been made regarding the comment about animals being fed an inappropriate diet, or being too old or fat?
- In section 3.2 – can [REDACTED] quantify the reduction of animal usage achieved by using archived tissues?



- The committee would like to know if [REDACTED] is using a germline repository either to source lines or to preserve lines.
- The committee would like to commend the number of publications and outreach already achieved so far, in section 4.8. Thank you for highlighting in bold where 3Rs achievements were disseminated.
- [REDACTED] - Regulation of the actin cytoskeleton
- The committee are intrigued to read in 3.1 about the successful use of *Drosophila* in order to replace mice research. The committee would like to approach [REDACTED] for information about this in due course.
- In section 2.6 – could details please be included about the timings between and total length of time that frogs are re-used for, along with details about the health checks that they have for deciding to re-use, or not.
- In section 2.9 and 3.10 – please could the formatting be checked and make the answers clearer.

4. Amendments

- [REDACTED] - Amendment to existing SS protocol
- The committee are interested to know what assessments of these mice were going to be made and what the likelihood is of these assessments deeming the model to be of moderate severity?
- The committee would like to explore methods of genotyping:
 - Could it be clarified which methods will be used for rats, and which for mice.
 - Could it be explained how the method was chosen and how the animals are handled to mitigate any harm in order for it to be the most refined genotyping method?
 - Is hair sampling and mouth swabbing being looked in to or even blood sampling, as a refinement?
- Please may the amendment lay summary be re-addressed to make it clearer the amendments relevant to rats, as well as mice, as alterations to protocols 6 and 18 were not mentioned.
- The committee would like to ask if the amount of loss (e.g., pup loss) that might be experienced with this new line is being underestimated. We appreciate that historically there have been discrepancies between published data and cage-side findings, and we would not like the licence to subsequently restrict the work. This concern also includes expected adverse effects.
- The committee were interested to read about the use of surgical bedding with these models – could this please be incorporated into the Refinements section.
- The committee would also like to remind [REDACTED] to incorporate the amendment into the Non-Technical summary, along with re-checking the NTS for overly technical language.

5. Presentation

- [REDACTED] presentation on needle re use

The AWERB 3Rs Committee are mindful a decision to approve a re-use of needles exemption will establish a precedent that may suggest our Culture of Care standards can be



successfully challenged. We are very proud of our Culture of Care standards for the pursuit of research at the highest international levels of excellence, and we are concerned that this request is not conducive to it.

The Committee felt that the justification for the request is based largely on practicalities of large-scale operations, and not on a robust scientific justification for the risk of compromise to animal welfare that the re-using of (single or multi-use) needles poses.

The group are exploring a number of promising avenues to eradicate the need for re-using needles. We would like to recommend that we wait for the outcome of those investigations before agreeing to any needle re-use, as it is likely that the results will negate the need to re-use needles.

6. Standard Condition 18 reports

7. 3Rs information/reports

8. Feedback from previous Retrospective Reviews*

None

9. Highlights of AWERB Standing meeting*

10. Highlights of January AOC meeting*

None

11. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting: 7th April 2021

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