

Minutes

Date Wednesday, [REDACTED]
Time 08.30am
To Committee Members
At Virtual via Microsoft Teams
Subject AWERB 3Rs Committee

In Attendance:

Apologies:

1. Minutes

The previous minutes were approved after some minor adjustments

2. Matters Arising

3. Retrospective Reviews

The committee discussed the following:

[REDACTED] - Epithelial stem cell plasticity; relevance to cancer

The committee praised the very good quality of this retrospective review and would like to thank the PPL holder for their full cooperation with this process. The committee also note the research group fully engaged with the animal care staff and the NVS to refine their methods

- Section 2.1: the committee noticed the majority of the animals under moderate protocols where retrospectively assessed as mild. With this in mind, the committee is advising the applicant to consider reviewing the severity of the protocols for the future PPL application.
The committee would like to know if all the severe cases, apart from those found dead on the breeding protocol, were reported under a SC18 report.
It was noted in the table 2.1 fewer animals were used than expected in protocols 5, 7, 8 and 10. As described in section 5.5 this was due to maternity leave and the pandemic. The committee would like assurance that data was still usable from the reduced numbers used on the protocols.
- Section 2.2: Problems with the intraperitoneal injections were noted and the committee recommend that those using this technique are reassessed for competency and their Camtral records are updated.
- Section 2.2 suggests the incidence of harm recorded in Protocols 5 & 6 as being the same severity as the severity given on the licence, however in 2.1 it appears that a large percentage of animals were recorded as mild rather than moderate.



██████████ - Haematopoietic and leukaemia stem cell regulation

- Section 2.1: The reported number for the breeding protocols are lower than the estimated numbers. The committee is advising that the PPL holder review's the number estimation for future PPL applications
- Section 2.2: This table must be completed. Some experimental protocols are reporting animals above the severity band of the protocol and the committee would like further information about why this occurred.

██████████ - Investigating ubiquitin ligases in disease

- Section 2.2: The committee would like this table to be completed. This would provide some explanations regarding lower or higher observed severity.
- Section 2.11: the committee noted the source of animals is incomplete, only 0.6% of the animals are reported. Please provide the source of the remaining 99.4%
- Section 4.8: None of the publications were in bold and some 3Rs were reported in previous sections. The committee would like the PPL holder to double check if the publications are including one of the 3Rs reported and bold the reference if necessary.

██████████ - Neural plasticity in health and disease

- The committee appraised the very good quality of this retrospective review and would like to thank the PPL holder for your full cooperation with this process.
- Section 2.4 – The committee thought that 16% of pups missing or cannibalised seemed a high number. Could you expand on the cause of this please?
- Section 2.12 - It was noted that an increase in numbers had been requested as an amendment.
- Section 3.4 - The list of techniques include some that are not regulated. For example, to take brain slices the technique required would be to kill an animal by a schedule 1 or non-schedule 1 method.
- Section 4.4 – The committee understand you were unable to complete the project due to insufficient funding and suggest this is taken in to consideration in reflection when moving forward with a new application.
- Section 5.2 - The committee noted on one SC18 report provided for review, the date of submission was a year after the incident had happened and would like to know the reason for this.

4. Amendments

██████████ Effects of changes in blood glucose on brain and the central control of metabolism

The committee would like to thank the applicant for a well-written amendment and especially on the readability of the Non-Technical Summary.



- Project plan

The committee noted only two SC 18 reports but there are actually at least five reports for similar problem. The committee is advising to update this number or remove this information.

- Protocol 5

Step 2:

The committee have questioned the severity band of the protocol with the increase in the number of hyperglycaemic episodes (from 8 to 16). Please can it be made clear that no additional adverse effects are expected and they do not have a cumulative effect.

Step 7

The committee discussed the adverse effect associated with the administration of lithium chloride and it was explained this would be for short-term use only. It was suggested it is made clear that no adverse effects are expected from the use of lithium chloride.

Step 8

The committee suggest that more than one route is added to this step so there are options depending on what substance is used.

- Adverse effects

There is mention of body condition scoring of 2 as an end point. Please make sure it is explained what this means in regards to the animals clinical signs. The score range would be useful to add here.

- Protocol 6

Step 5

The committee suggest that further explanation should be given regarding the use of the metabolic cages being used daily. At the meeting the dialogue suggested the animals could be in the cages for up to 5 days with repeated sessions being 48 hours apart.

The committee also suggested that environmental enrichment such as suspended tubes or small squares of plastic could be added into the metabolic cages to give the animal's time off the grid floor without interrupting the collection of urine. This may be a refinement if it works for your studies.

- Protocol 7

Step 6

The committee suggest further clarification is added to explain why the metabolic cages are needed, how long the animals will be in them and why. The use of hydrophobic sand and collecting urine on a surgical pad were suggestions that may be useful and trialling new options could be added to the 3Rs section of the licence.



- Protocol 9

The committee suggest additional wording is added to the adverse effects section where weight loss of up to 20% after arterial cannulation is written. Further clarification is needed to explain what happens after day 5 if the animals have not recovered.

- Regarding weight loss of up to 15%, please add what this is in relation to for example, age matched controls or the starting weight of the animals? This comment may also be useful in other areas of the amendment, please check carefully.

- 3Rs section

The committee ask you to review if anything additional could be added to the 3Rs section.

5. Project Licence Applications

(a) None

6. Severe Severity licence reviews

7. Standard Condition 18 reports

8. 3Rs information/reports

9. Feedback from previous Retrospective Reviews*

None

10. Minutes of AOC meeting*

11. Minutes of AWERB Standing meeting*

12. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2nd December 2020

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