

## Minutes

Date Wednesday, 05/06/2024

Time 9:00 AM

To Committee Members

At [REDACTED]

Subject AWERB 3Rs Committee

Our Ref Doc.AWERB.3Rs.05.06.24

**AWERB 3Rs Committee :** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Minutes –** [REDACTED]

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### 1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 were approved.

### 2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Retrospective Reviews

**(a)** [REDACTED] - Genetic and developmental basis of morphological variation in cichlid fish

The committee discussed the following:

- Further information needed regarding the reporting and management of the Standard Condition 18 detailed in section 2.3.
- The calculation for protocol 2 in section 2.4 needs to be checked.
- Further information to be included in section 2.4 for percentages of animals killed or found dead in each protocol.
- Further information needed in section 2.5 regarding how the funding and available space issue has been addressed for the new project licence.
- The wording in section 2.6 to be reviewed as reuse is not permitted on the licence.
- An estimate of the new efficiency rate needs to be included in section 2.8.
- Further detail for how the extending of the imaging time affects the new licence needed in section 2.12.
- The number of animals not used due to this change to be included in section 3.2.

**(b)** [REDACTED] - Microglial targets in brain pathology and ageing

The committee discussed the following:

- The table in section 2.1 to be reviewed to include the rats that are mentioned in a later section.
- The percentage increase in section 2.5 needs to be checked.
- The strain detailed in section 2.9 may be of interest to others. Consideration needs to be given to amending this section to share this strain.
- The reduction listed in section 3.2 needs to be removed.
- The committee commended the paper referenced in section 3.7.
- Any publications referenced in section 4.8 need to be bolded if there are 3Rs achievements involved.

**(c)** [REDACTED] - Effects of changes in blood glucose on brain and the central control of metabolism.

The committee discussed the following:

- The number of rats used on the project licence needs to be included in section 2.1.
- Section 2.2 needs to be completed.
- Further information needed in section 2.4 regarding how the percentage of animals not recovered has changed over time and how it will be mitigated in the new project licence.
- Section 2.7 has been answered 'no'. Consideration to be given to whether there may be any animal wastage, due to breeding.
- Section 2.9 needs to be reworded to read as a statement rather than a question.
- The vascular buttons detailed in section 2.10 need to be included in section 3.7 as a refinement.
- Could the hypoglycaemia score sheet detailed in section 3.8 be shared to other groups that may benefit?
- Can any publications be included in section 4.7 regarding the refinements made to protocol 9.

#### **4. Project Licence Applications – New / Amendments**

**(a)** [REDACTED] - Breeding and maintenance of rodents for drug discovery platform

- The committee had no comments

#### **5. Standard Condition 18 Reports**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. [REDACTED] discussed the SC18 report and the findings from Jan 2024 – April 2024. April has been slightly below previous months. The pie chart shows reports from April 2024. [REDACTED] complimented the way this information is presented and thinks it is very useful to the committee. There was a significant spike in reports in March.

#### **6. 3Rs information/reports**

[REDACTED] discussed the conference in May about openness. The points raised were as follows.

- Activist's voices are louder than 'ours'. This sector isn't doing enough to correct misinformation. When information is put out, we need to respond with the correct facts.
- More transparency is needed regarding the use of animals.
- More unedited images are needed as these are reported to being more effective.
- There are no appropriate replacements for most animal work.
- We should be inviting high level people into our facilities to educate them.
- [REDACTED] said reports received from [REDACTED] open days that when we are questioned our responses tend to be a little cold.



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

University Biomedical Services

- The research communication department can assist researchers with training in how to speak with the public about research.
- [REDACTED] – Asked if there is an existing working group that can channel these public communication ideas and input so it can be disseminated to the relevant groups of people.
- [REDACTED] have installed cameras inside the animal facility allowing visitors to view technicians and researchers going about their duties. It was agreed this has positive and negative effects.
- Staff at [REDACTED] took part in an Instagram live to answer research questions.
- Germany recently took part in a poll, asking the public to vote for their opinion on the cruelest research.
- There were discussions around ideas for public open days

## 7. Minutes of the AOC meeting - 19/04/2024

The minutes were noted. There were no comments.

## 8. Minutes of the AWERB Standing meeting - 27/03/2024

The minutes were noted. There were no comments.

## 9. Any Other Business

**Date of next meeting:** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 via MS Teams.