

## Minutes

**Date** Wednesday, 06/10/2021

**Time** 9:00 AM

**To** Committee Members

**At** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**Subject** AWERB 3Rs Committee

**In Attendance:**

**Apologies:**

**Minutes -**

### 1. Minutes

The previous minutes were approved

### 2. Matters Arising

### 3. Retrospective Reviews

The committee discussed the following:

- The Study of epithelial cancer genes

The committee recognised and commend the NC3Rs-funded PhD Studentship

The committee commend the scientific engagement with others in the field, and the level of output achieved with a reduction in the number of mice.

- 2.1 Is there a larger reason for the significant decrease in animals used vs predicted numbers? More detail needed.
- 2.3 The committee commented that the investigation into the skin condition resulting in the using of black mice constituted as a Refinement, this should be included in section 3.7.
- 2.4 A breakdown needed of the age of animals found dead in protocol 2, to assess at what ages these occurred.
- 3.2 Clarification needed for the comment “by a 10<sup>th</sup>” was this meant to say “by 10-fold”
- 4.8 More papers in this section could be highlighted in bold as containing this 3Rs achievement due to the successful Reduction from the use of organoids,

– Understanding proliferation versus differentiation in cells and tissues

The committee noted the unpredictability of job circumstances. It was recognised that the work is carrying on under ' new PPL



The committee also commended [REDACTED] outreach and publications, considering the animal numbers and usage of this licence.

- 4.8 – Can the publication list be reviewed? Can any be put in bold if they contain information about the organoid work and Reduction.

#### 4. Amendments

None

#### 5. Severe Severity Project licence applications

[REDACTED] – Nutrient sensing in the brain

The committee made the following recommendations:

##### 1. Protocol Justification

- a) The committee noted that many of the steps in protocol 11 are present in the other moderate protocols.
- b) More detail needed regarding the difference between these mice. Only 10% of mice expected to reach severe severity with 90% expected to reach moderate, why is this?
- c) Can the 90% mice be done under the other protocols?
- d) Is there a different scientific question applied to this protocol. Do the 10% severe animals provide that data?
- e) Further detail needed regarding the decision making process behind putting an animal on this protocol?
- f) A more detailed explanation of why this protocol exists by way of its severity is advised in the Protocol Justification section.

##### 2. Cumulative risk

The committee were concerned about the cumulative severity risk for these animals considering the large number of steps, and options within steps.

- a) Day 70 through to 84 involves a lot of blood sampling. More detail needed as to why this is happening.
- b) Can further limits be placed in the animal experience section on which combination of steps and sub-steps an animal can be exposed to?
- c) Are all the steps and sub-steps necessary?
- d) The committee suggested [REDACTED] discusses this with the PST if further guidance on protocol structure is needed.

##### 3. General humane endpoints

The committee suggests this section be reviewed to make sure there is no conflicting information. If everything is covered by the step endpoints, there may be nothing further to add in the general humane endpoints section.

##### 4. Housing at 4°C

The wording here needs to be reviewed as there is currently no corresponding step in protocol 11. Comments needed in the 3Rs section about the husbandry alterations required for this environment.

##### 5. Grid floors

The committee would like a more detailed description of the floors used and the time the animals spend on them in the 3Rs section.



6. 40% food restriction

More information needed behind this restriction. How this step will be used, what scientific questions will it answer, will there be increments of restriction, and what will the mouse experience of this restriction likely be?

7. Animals of Specific Scientific interest

The committee recognise the standard text "Animals exhibiting any unexpected harmful phenotypes will be killed (Schedule 1), or in the case of individual animals of particular scientific interest, advice will be sought promptly from the local Home Office inspector" in the general humane endpoints section.

This allowance is not intended to be used to extend humane endpoints. The committee suggested that this information be moved to the Animal Experience section.

**6. Severe Severity licence reviews**

**7. Standard condition 18 reports**

████ informed the committee there had been 33 SC18 reports in the last month. The repeat concerns of interest to the 3Rs committee is restraint training, there have been some deaths of animals whilst being restrained. There has also been mice deaths from Covid 19 vaccinations and observations were increased due to this.

**8. 3Rs information/reports**

**9. Highlights of AWERB Standing meeting\***

**10. Highlights of January AOC meeting\***

**11. Any Other Business**

- Ask █████ for thoughts next month on a possible future collaboration – Moved to the next meeting
- Severe severity licence review process – Documents embedded in the document to be downloaded to view. - Moved to November's meeting for discussion.
- Feedback from █████ TBC - Moved to the next meeting
- Changes in NVS team - Changes to the team we discussed. █████ will be going on maternity leave and █████ is on secondment. Interviews for temporary cover for these roles are on going
- RSPCA focus on Severe suffering – Discussed

**Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

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