

Date: Friday, 17/11/2023

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on 20th October were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There was a query over whether the Health and Safety visits started in November or December. It was confirmed they started in November.

There was a query about whether the definition of exsanguination is covered on the PIL course, it was confirmed that it is.

It was confirmed that the rodent transport guidance document is on the UBS website under the Resources tab then resources overview. A fish transport guidance document is in draft.

It was requested that [REDACTED] send out an email to clarify funding.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

There is a meeting on Monday 20th November in [REDACTED] for new Establishment Licence Holders. The ASRU audit report is in. Some points need to be addressed and information returned to ASRU with regard to the maintenance programme and recruitment. The replies need to be sent by 22nd November and 30th November.

[REDACTED] NACWO approval came through this morning and [REDACTED] was approved on Thursday. [REDACTED] is completing the forms and will be submitting soon.

4. What is happening in your unit?

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

█ is going to initially use RFID tags which are going to be put in the flank near the scruff on C57BL6 mice to test the principal. Then when the study starts in full it will be trialled in nude mice. They are also looking at micro tattooing but they cannot currently do this. Eventually, they will run the two side by side and see which is best. █ can help with the tags. There was a conversation about the placement of the tags. The PPL is being updated to accommodate this.

Some animals have been received from █ with malocclusion. █ is collating all the health concerns from various suppliers as malocclusion isn't the only problem. It was agreed a meeting with █ would be a good idea.

█ has offered the opportunity for some staff to go and visit. We are waiting to see how many people they will let visit on each occasion.

The Auto watering working group has been meeting regularly and looking at trends and trialling different things in different areas. There is still an issue with dehydration but the group can recognise more susceptible strains. It has been noticed that it is a particular issue for 3.5 – 6 week old weaners and the problematic ones are being put on a pouch at weaning and this is removed at 8 weeks of age.

Some █ technicians are working on a poster about nesting and enrichment for IAT Congress next year. There is a trial of Rollnest which will help ensure the same amount of bedding is being added to the cages each time.

█ will make a poster on the rotation of enrichment.

New health screening company █ visited █ on Monday. There is concern that █ pooled mice together to CO2. █ will liaise with █ to find out more about their protocols.

Researchers in █ are trialling the use of the Marker pens to identify mice. It does not work on black mice but it is being used on skin graft mice to avoid scruffing them. It is also being trialled on ears to avoid ear notching. █ will send █ the information as it was felt █ would also like to try the pens alongside the RFID tag at the same time as surgery. █ to be added to the 3R's enquiry list.

█ have had issues with the animals chewing the cement down to the scalp under the caps on the skull. █ are looking at a divider for each cage so the animals do not need to be housed individually, they will still have sight and be able to smell each other. The caps will be refined eventually so they are not as big.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

█ is a new senior on █.

A couple of people have been recruited from an agency and we are continuing to employ people through temp to perm.

█ has spoken to █ about a clearer training programme for people coming in. Information will be passed on when there is a clearer plan in place.

We have a couple of potential bank staff.

There was a conversation about whether we could put UBS vacancies on the UBS website and a discussion around technicians preferring to know which facility the advert is for.

Four people were invited to an interview at █ on Monday, none of them responded to the invitation.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

The next surgery tech group meeting will be in January.

█████ visited █████ to look at the surgery practices there. The plan is to have more visits of each other's facilities and sharing ideas face to face.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

There are seven learning cards on Teams and the website. There was a discussion about how people will know they have been put on the website. It was agreed they would be sent out with the minutes to all Named People and say they are on the website and on Teams.

The Home Office has updated its requirements and has asked for procedural steps to be included in the reports. It was suggested that a study plan was sent. █████ will send one to █████ to have a look at it to see if the information there is suitable.

There was a conversation around mice being able to get behind the hopper in the GM500 cages. This has been fed back to █████. █████ has a video of a live mouse behind a hopper and will send this to █████

There have been 40 SC18's in total. Commonalities: 1 Microchip, 1 hind limb paralysis, 16 compound-related (cell solution, MIA toxicity, high IGA), 10 mice found dead, 9 weight loss, 2 irradiation, 2 Leukaemia, 2 G/A IVIS, 2 dehydration (pups), 1 seizure, 1 breathing phenotype, 2 tumour.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

█████ – No comments

█████ – The end date is 2028. The NACWO needs to sign.

█████ – Please provide the following details. How many offspring will be used in total over the course of the project? What age will they be killed?

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

█████ and █████ had a meeting on Tuesday with █████ where concerns were raised about █████. The Home Office have flagged █████ as a concern and want a report from the University by the end of November about what they intend to do about it. UBS buildings will now be flagged as high priority with █████.

█████ were serviced by █████ yesterday and the macerator valve has failed multiple times since then.

8. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

The programme of safety visits has started. █████, █████ and █████ will be at the end of the month.

New starters will be having baseline spirometry testing from the New Year. The lists for annual screening will be transferred to a database.

A Health & Safety meeting is coming up, managers' report to complete will be distributed soon. There will also be an irradiation subcommittee coming up in a couple of weeks.

One of the new █████ had a tour with █████ this week. The █████ had a lengthy discussion about face fit testing and researchers within the facility, the █████ will take this back and hopefully come up with something to support the facility with who is responsible for face fit testing them.

9. Training and Competencies

There will be new prices for the courses from January.



There was a question about whether other facilities have DOPS for the use of equipment and whether people are being assessed with using equipment. It was agreed that potentially having the facilities help put together assessments for the equipment would be ideal.

10. Any other business

■■■■, ■■■■ and ■■■■ did a 3Rs drop in at the ■■■■ and met with the technicians and ■■■■. There were some great ideas which will be helpful to make some posters.

They will visit ■■■■ next.

■■■■ put together an information sheet on blood sampling volumes. It was agreed the word dosage should be removed from the title as it implies something is being put in. This will then be available on the website.

■■■■ will be making a poster about how to make green clay.

December newsletter will be distributed and put on website soon.

The events page on the website is up to date, please encourage the technicians to have a look.

There was a conversation about who the newsletter and bulletin go to. We will ask HR for a UBS email list to circulate them to but this won't get to the temp to perm staff. These staff can access MCMS though.

The University of Cambridge is supporting the emotional side of working with animals. ■■■■ is willing to come and do some work at the termly events about resilience. ■■■■ in HR also thinks she has some information.

There was a discussion around project licences now having to have standard wording for swollen hocks.

■■■■ and ■■■■ are going to work on some wording. Swollen hocks in NSG and other strains need to be considered for this wording.

It was suggested we could have a mentoring programme to support staff as there is no follow-up after counselling. It is felt this should include mentors from different grades, not just seniors.

Date of next meeting: 15th December 2023 MS Teams