



Minutes

Date Wednesday, 24/03/2021

Time 1pm

To Standing Committee

At Virtual, MS Teams

Subject AWERB Standing Committee

Our Ref Doc.UBS.AWERB.24.03.21

In attendance: [REDACTED]

Observing: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Scientists in attendance for 1a) [REDACTED], **1b)** [REDACTED] **& 1c)** [REDACTED]

Apologies:

1. Project Licences

(a) New licence: [REDACTED] was also in attendance)

The committee discussed the following:

- The recommendation that the applicant reviews the Non-Technical Summary and divides up the complex sentences and uses simpler words for the lay reader to understand.
- The removal of specific references from the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further clarification around the research into implants and the people they are aimed at in the Non-Technical Summary and Protocol 4.
- The removal of references to specific establishments in the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further information around specific procedures that will take place included in the Non-Technical Summary: Project Harms section.
- Further clarity required when referencing the general effect of surgery that causes animals to take time to recover, rather than a specific procedure included in the Non-Technical Summary: Project Harms section.
- The revision of animal numbers to ensure they are accurate in the Non-Technical Summary: Reduction section.
- The removal of specific references from the Non-Technical Summary: Refinement section.
- Further information around specific refinements that have been introduced so animals can now be group housed included in the Non-Technical Summary: Refinement section.
- Further information around the use of wet mash and gels to support animals included in the Non-Technical Summary: Refinement section.
- The addition of LASA guidance that could be added to the Non-Technical Summary: Refinement section.
- Further explanation around why specific models and methods chosen are the most likely to deliver the expected scientific outputs in the Protocol justification sections.



- The recommendation that the answer and justification given during the AWERB meeting around why Protocol 2 is needed be included in the Protocol section of the application.
- Further refinements that could be explored in regards to specific procedures planned.
- Further explanation required in regards to the effect specific treatments could have included in the Protocol justification section.
- Further information around the progress that has been made in regards to specific procedures planned and refinement methods used in the Protocol justification section of the relevant Protocols.
- The recommendations that where relevant the applicant reviews the information provided and provide further clarity around what analgesia is used and the short term nature of these experiments.

The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(b) New Licence: [REDACTED] was also in attendance)

The committee discussed the following:

- The recommendation that the applicant reduces the number of research areas within the application to cover the work that is planned and additional areas would be added as an amendment.
- The recommendation that the applicant considers whether the use of Protocol 1 could be restricted to the University of Cambridge taking into consideration an inability to do this at the alternative establishment and to provide reasoning if this is not possible.
- The removal of references to 'aged animals' in Protocol 1.
- Revision of the Non-Technical Summary so that is easy to understand by a lay reader.
- The removal of specific sentences from the Project Harms section and these added to the Replacement section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- The revision of animal numbers in the Non-Technical Summary: Reduction section.
- Further clarity required around potential adverse events from experimental procedures included in the Project Harms section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- The inclusion of the explanation given during the meeting in regards to 'Networks of Excellence' included in the Reduction section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- The inclusion of a statement around tissue sharing included in the Reduction section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- The removal of specific references in the Refinement section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- The inclusion of references to LASA guiding principles in the Refinements section of the Non-Technical Summary.

The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(c) New Licence: [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

The committee discussed the following:

- The recommendation that the answers provided during the AWERB meeting around when the studies progress into *in vivo* work are added to the relevant Protocol justification sections.
- The information regarding how safety was defined in the context of the project would be useful added into the application.
- The information provided during the AWERB meeting around how successful specific techniques were used in the work are included in the Protocol justification sections.



- Further information around when pilot studies are used included in the Experimental design section.
- Further specificity required around humane end points.
- Revision of the Non-Technical Summary so it can be understood by a lay reader.
- Further information around why specific animals are used and the choice of life stages included in the Non-Technical Summary: Project harms section.
- Further information around the expected impacts and/or adverse effects for the animals during this project included in the Non-Technical Summary: Project Harms section.
- Further information in regards to specific refinements included in the Non-Technical Summary: Refinements section.
- The addition of specific references included in the terminal steps on the Protocols.

The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

2. Retrospective Reviews

(a) None

3. Minutes of last meeting 27/01/21 & 24/02/21

The minutes were noted

4. Minutes of the AWERB sub-standing committee 05/02/21, 08/02/21 & 05/03/21

The minutes were noted

5. Minutes of the AWERB 3Rs Committee 07/04/21

The minutes were not available

6. Minutes of the AWERB Operations Committee 26/02/21

The minutes were not available

7. Matters arising from the minutes and AOB

The committee discussed the 'Re-use of needles exemption request' and the feedback given from the AWERB 3Rs committee. The committee commended the researcher's involvement in the NC3Rs Crack-it project to develop equipment to eliminate dead space in needles.

The committee were advised that the re-use of multi-use needles are not likely to offer a long term solution as these too will blunt with repeated use.

The committee noted the paper by [REDACTED] (2016): *Direct lentivirus injection for fast and efficient gene transfer into brown and beige adipose tissue. Jr Biological methods Vol 3(3)* that was suggested by [REDACTED] as a possible solution for the group to consider. He offered an invitation to the researcher to see him using this equipment and suggested they contact him directly.

The committee requested:



- The researcher considers the [REDACTED] paper and undertake a feasibility exercise on the use of this equipment.
- That they also consider the feasibility of adapting the experimental design for these particular studies to use a rolling recruitment of animals onto study rather than the current batch method.
- If the first two considerations cannot provide a viable solution, the committee would need to seek confirmation from the researcher's Home Office Inspector that this request was possible.

8. List items of note

None

Date of next meeting: 28/04/21