



Minutes

Date Friday, 05/03/2021

Time 10:00 AM

To Sub-Standing Committee

At Virtual: MS Teams

Subject AWERB Standing Committee

Our Ref Doc.UBS.AWERB.05.03.21

Present: [REDACTED]

Feedback sent: [REDACTED]

Scientists in attendance for 1a) N/A, 1b) N/A & 1c) N/A

Apologies: [REDACTED]

MINUTES

1. Project Licences

a) Amendment: [REDACTED] attended on her behalf)

The committee discussed the following:

- Further clarification regarding the benefits this amendment will produce.
- Further information around what the thresholds for moderate severity will be and if more severe, any additional options that could be introduced to reduce this risk.
- Further clarity around reducing the need to genotype due to breeding specific animal strains.
- Further clarity around the methods of genotyping for specific animals.
- Further information around how the genotyping method is chosen and how the animals are handled to mitigate any harm.
- Further consideration given to refinements in regards to genotyping.
- Further consideration given to new lines and expected adverse effects to ensure the licence is not too restrictive.
- Further clarification around the clinical signs and humane end points in regards to specific procedures.
- Further refinements added in regards to specific models used.
- Further information included in the Non-Technical Summary in regards to the amendment requested.
- The removal of technical language from the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further clarification around which amendments are relevant to rats and those relevant to mice.

The committee agreed minor changes were required before the amendment is submitted to the Home Office.

b) Amendment: [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- The removal of typographical errors.



- The inclusion of specific references.
- Further information around the quantitative data obtained from the tissues used and the justification for this.
- Further information around the experiments carried out using the tissues when harvested, what the outputs are from the tissues used and further information on the types of experiments planned.
- The recommendation that animals are moved before being paired for mating.
- The inclusion of specific procedures included in the Project harms section.
- The committee suggested searches using ECVAM and human repositories could be useful and if included this could be added to the Replacement section.
- Revision required in regards to animal numbers in the Reduction section.
- Further clarification of specific references in the Refinement section.
- Further information around the need for breeding colonies added to the Reduction section.
- Locations of where the work will take place included in the application.
- The removal of aged animals from the list of life stages that will be used in Protocol 1.
- The inclusion of the strain of mice that will be used and why in Protocol 1.
- The recommendation that the applicant assesses specific methods to ensure they are the most appropriate and ensure that justification for these is included.

The committee agreed changes needed to be made before this amendment is submitted to the Home Office.

c) Amendment: [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Further clarity around the size and diameter of optical fibres used.
- The inclusion of specific formulas and an example of how the parameters could change due to these calculations.
- Further clarification required in regards to a typical range of anaesthetics used.

The committee agreed minor changes were needed before this amendment is submitted to the Home Office.

2. Minutes of the last meeting 05/02/21

The minutes were not available

3. Minutes of AWERB Standing Committee meeting 24/02/21

The minutes were not available

4. Retrospective Reviews [RR]

a) [REDACTED]:

The committee discussed the following:

- The revision of tables in Section 2.1
- Further information around steps that were taken to reduce animal wastage in Section 2.7.
- Further information around whether the intent to use more male stock is across all animal lines.
- Further clarification around animal wastage in regards to specific animals in Section 2.7.
- Further information around rodent breeding strategies in Section 2.8.
- Further information around whether the researcher is using a germline repository to either source lines or preserve lines included in Section 3.2.
- Further information regarding specific comments made in Section 2.7.



- Further information around the reduction of animal usage achieved in Section 3.2.
- Further explanation regarding specific procedures in Section 3.4.
- The committee commended the researcher on the number of publications and outreach already achieved.

b) [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Further information around timings between and total length of time that animals are re-used along with details about the health checks they have for decision making included in Section 2.6.
- The recommendation that the researcher checks the formatting and makes the yes/no answers clearer in Sections 2.9 and 3.10.
- Further information around whether it is possible to examine the actin cytoskeleton of cells maintained via cell/tissue cultures rather than using eggs.
- Further information around whether the project led to a greater understanding of neurodevelopmental disorders.

5. Any other business

a) Overseas Research requests: [REDACTED]

The committee discussed two Overseas Research requests and felt that further information and the background behind this request would be useful to help understand the overall purpose of the work. The committee would like to receive this information before the AWERB chair signs these requests.

6. **Date of next AWERB Committee meeting:** 09/04/21