



## Minutes

Date Monday, 08/02/2021

Time 2.30 pm

To Standing Committee

At Teams

Subject AWERB Sub-Standing Committee

Our Ref Doc.UBS.AWERB.08.02.21

**In attendance:** [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

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

### 1. Project Licences

**(a) New:** [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Suggest adding a diagram into the Action plan box which sets out how prior *in vitro* and GWAS data inputs/informs *in vivo* experiments.
- Suggest adding more information about the criteria used to triage human genetic data and how this data is used to inform the production of mice with monogenetic mutations.
- Suggest adding more information regarding the identification and use of early disease biomarkers.
- Clarify in protocols why each species has been selected, and when each will be used. Suggest adding text to either the **Experimental design** or the **Protocol justification** section, about the possible off target effects arising from the use of Sugden in rats.
- Suggest reviewing the information in one of the protocols regarding the expectation that 100% of the animals will reach moderate severity.
- Clarify where and when advice will be sought about the use of the pulmonary arterial banding procedure, which will be a new procedure for the group.
- Recommend reviewing the protocol dose volume and frequency tables with respect to intranasal administrations.
- Give more detail of the standard formulae in the protocols and clarify the parameters needed to give more understanding when undertaking procedures.
- Include the benefits coming from Morphogen-IX in the Benefits section, ensuring there is no mention of the company by name in the NTS Benefits section.

**(b) New:** [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Suggest providing more information about how the candidate genes are selected and prioritised.
- Suggest removing the comment about some mice being intolerant to low temperatures.
- Recommend providing an example of what might be used instead of the anaesthetic detailed.



- Suggest investigating whether the GTT test is as effective with the glucose administered by the more natural oral route and if so undertake a study dosing by this route to see if this reduces the welfare burden on animals.

(c) **Amendment:** [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Clarify details of new procedures such as calcium imaging and brain slices.
- Ensure training records are kept up to date at all times.

## 2. **Retrospective Reviews**

- (a) [REDACTED]
- Section 2.1, the committees were pleased to see animal usage is well within that predicted, along with very honest explanations. The committee noted the engagement in major translational projects thus making the data from these mice even more powerful.
  - Section 2.3, the committees were pleased to see suitable actions taken with regards to the SC18 reports and the error around the fasting durations. However, the committees encourage the use of post-mortem examinations be part of the investigation of any subsequent unexpected adverse events.
  - In section 2.3, explain the fasting error and clarify what is meant by the 'Core'.
  - Review section 2.4, as it says there was no requirement to freeze down lines but this contradicts section 2.6, bullet point 4 where it says lines are frozen down in-house.
  - Section 2.6 explain why only males were needed.
  - Section 3.2, the decreased numbers of animals due to the mite infestation unfortunately should not to be considered a reduction in animal wastage.
  - In section 3.2, the committees were interested in how work with *Drosophila* flies have influenced rodent work, leading to significant replacement and reductions. The committees would like to promote this and take this information forward.
  - In section 3.7, the committees were interested in the daily pre-testing handling and the longer period of acclimatation enabling you to gain much better results from fewer animals. There was presumably good collaboration with the animal technicians and NACWO, and the committees would like to promote this as a notable refinement.
  - In section 4.3, the committees were very impressed that there had been no need to perform novel melanocortin agonist use in mice, as human studies answered your objective goals successfully.
  - The committees were very impressed with the quality of the data and the importance of the findings of the 2020 Nature paper.
  - The committees were very impressive by the publications and 3Rs findings arising from the research.

## 3. **Minutes of the last meeting**

n/a



**4. Minutes of AWERB Standing Committee**

n/a

**5. Any Other Business**

■ Amendment – There were no comments and recommended this be submitted to the Home Office.

**Non Regulated Procedure Request**

One Non-Regulated Procedure request was reviewed. The committee agreed this should be supported and signed by the AWERB chair.

**Date of next meeting:** 05/03/2021