



Minutes: AWERB SUMMARY MINUTES

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 30 August 2018 at 2pm in Lecture Theatre 1 (Camden) videolinked to F82 (Hawkshead)

Attendees: 8 members present; 1 in attendance; 4 by invitation; 7 apologies

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2 PROJECT LICENCE HOLDER PRESENTATION

The project licence holder was welcomed to the meeting. She had recently submitted a new project licence for review. There was also a scientist in attendance who had been involved in reviewing the application to provide comments from a scientist's perspective.

The project licence holder explained that this was her first project licence that she was applying for, though she had plenty of experience of working under other project licences. Her research was focused on understanding the normal process

Objective 3: To identify injury mechanisms and susceptible stages of development from Objective 1 and 2, and use them to test novel therapeutic molecules using a variety of clinically relevant biomarkers

The following queries were raised:

Behavioural tests:

It was suggested that more detail should be included with the behavioural tests indicating when to terminate the testing if it looked like an animal was struggling. What stress signs should be looked out for?

Were there any guidelines on what insufficient weight gain or excessive weight loss would be for a newborn pup? 20% seemed to be quite a lot for newborns. It was clarified that this actually related to 20% reduced weight gain rather than weight loss. This would be calculated with a control animal as the experiments would be run using control and experimental animals so that it was possible to have that comparison.

Technician assistance for the procedural administrations would be required. The project licence holder would provide training for those procedures that she had experience in, for the others she would arrange training to be carried out via her collaborators who were very skilled in these techniques.

Who would be working under the project licence? It was confirmed that initially it would be her PhD student, but that if her group was expanded once she obtained further funding, then they would also work under the project licence. She would provide the supervision. Her personal licence holders would watch her for the first couple of times and then use cadavers to practice their skills before moving onto live animals. The project licence holder was advised that once the personal licence holders had been trained they would need to be assessed – this would need to be someone different to the trainer. A

The project licence holder was applying for minor changes to the details of the loading protocol to ensure that they were able to induce consistent damage within the Achilles tendon through application of load. Since the original project licence application, her collaborators have further characterised the tendon damage that is generated by loading of the tibia is due to compression from the loading

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 3.5: Poster for the Lab Animal Workshop (July meeting)**

The following suggestions for topics that could be included in the proposed poster had been received:

- Dog socialisation and rehoming programme (for dogs and other species)
- Project on environmental enrichment
- Tissue sharing project
- Possibly welfare of teaching animals as the animals were vital to student life and teaching them how to handle animals.

AWERB agreed that these were all good suggestions. The A0 poster would focus on 3 projects that AWERB had been involved in. The list of suggestions received would be circulated for people to vote on their top 3. Members of AWERB would then be assigned to put together panels for the posters using these suggestions.

4.2 **Item 9.2: Attending other AWERB meetings (July meeting)**

The Chair of the London AWERB Hub had been e-mailed about whether it would be possible to attend other AWERB meetings as an observer. She didn't think it was a problem and would contact Hub members upon her return from leave in September. This would certainly help with seeing how other AWERBs did things (such as tackle mid term reviews) and identify areas that could be improved.

4.3 **Item 10: Assessors List Review (July meeting)**

Areas where replacements assessors were needed were being identified. It was confirmed that external people could be approached if they had the relevant experience.

4.4 **Item 11.2: Conferences (July meeting)**

Users have been reminded that if they are attending conferences and learn something of interest to them, then AWERB should be notified so that the information could be disseminated.

4.5 **Item 4: ARRIVE Guidelines (June meeting)**

A new study request form was being drafted that would help researchers follow the ARRIVE guidelines too. It would then be piloted.

4.6 **Item 11: Training Records (May and June meeting)**

User training records for existing PIL holders were being phased in. New starters were receiving their training records straight off. A sample copy of the training folder would be circulated to AWERB for info.

4.7 **Item 2.2: Refresher Training (April meeting)**

This training presentation was nearly completed. There would be a practice run through with AWERB to obtain their feedback before arranging a session with the project licence holders.

5 LONDON AWERB HUB

AWERB noted the redacted minutes of the London AWERB Hub meeting that had been held on 17 July 2018.

The following points were raised:

- Were there examples of practice carried out at the RVC that could be shared with the Hub for comment?

Managing late drafts for PPL applications: this was a common problem for despite reminding project licence holders that their project licences were due to expire, new replacement licences were being submitted very late in the process.

6 NVS REPORTS

AWERB noted the reviews that had been circulated.

7 MID TERM PROJECT LICENCE REVIEWS

AWERB noted that one mid term review had been submitted. It was unclear whether work under this project licence would be continuing. This would be checked.

8 STUDY REQUESTS

AWERB noted that there had been one study request approved since the previous meeting. This was for work that if it had been carried out in the UK would have required a Home Office project licence, however as it was being done in Spain, the researchers had been asked to provide a summary of the work that was being done for approval.

9 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

9.1 Rehoming

AWERB noted that the rehoming approach was being standardised so that it followed RSPCA guidelines. The technicians who were implementing these guidelines would be invited to a future AWERB meeting to report back on the changes they have made.

10 2018-19 CPD PROGRAMME

This was an ongoing project. The Deputy Managers were keeping a tally on the training that they were sending their staff on. They were also arranging for researchers to give talks to the technicians on their research. The Deputy Managers were working on compiling a rolling programme for the next 12 months. A copy of the programme would come to AWERB.

It was suggested that animal technicians could attend the BSc stunning/slaughter teaching module taking place in 2019. There would be space for up to 5 staff.

11 TRAINING RECORDS

It was reported that the training records have recently been audited and were up to date for the technicians. A more contemporaneous training record system for users was being implemented.

12 FISH

It was reported that the Home Office Inspector had inspected the fish facility that week. Routine husbandry and care of the fish was being transferred to BSU. The fish facility was also being completely serviced and any malfunctioning parts would be replaced. Stocking densities also needed to be reviewed as they were higher than the generally accepted level. Animal technicians were also going on an intensive training course in September. This would cover health and welfare, breeding, euthanasia and general information about zebrafish best practices.

13 PIGS

One of the pigs had bacterial endocarditis, which was possibly associated with the chronic

14 STOCKPILING OF ANIMALS

It was reported that a couple of project licence holders were building up a stockpile of animals and did not have a plan for how they would be used. An action plan was therefore needed. This would be put together for discussion with the Establishment Licence Holder.

15 AWERB FEEDBACK

AWERB members were asked for feedback about what they would like to have discussed at these meetings. Lay Panel members were also encouraged to feed in what they would like to see on the agendas.

16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 2nd October 2018.

Secretary

31 August 2018