

The University of Leeds, Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee Minutes 27 March 2019

13 members were present at the meeting (three members for part of the meeting) with one person in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 30 January 2019 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received paper AWERC18/12

18/60 The update on actions was received for information.

Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update

18/61 The PEL holder reported that there had been no new Condition 18 reports since the previous meeting and that outstanding reports had been closed without further action.

18/62 Discussions regarding future plans for the animal facilities were ongoing and proposals to mothball some space were under consideration. Generally, things were proceeding very smoothly and the unit staff were thanked for their work.

Project licence (PPL) applications and reviews

Application A348 and review FR39

18/63 The Committee was told that work under the previous project licence had led directly to the new application which would focus on a new principle of pain processing. The applicant presented the proposed work to the Committee after which a number of aspects of recent progress and the new application were discussed. Topics discussed included the request for different species; the number of animals requested for the five year duration of the project; the animal welfare score sheet and humane endpoints.

18/64 The applicant was asked to include achievements under the previous project in the short lay paragraph and to work on this to make it more accessible to a lay reader. Also, arising from discussion the applicant was advised to make a number of minor changes to the application including the development of a more focussed animal welfare score sheet, with the help of the named animal care and welfare officer (NACWO), before submitting the application to the Home Office (HO). ACTION: NACWO, named veterinary surgeon (NVS) and administrator to assist with revisions.

Application A349

18/65 The applicant gave a presentation of the work proposed under the PPL application which was concerned with validating biomechanical computational models. After this a number of aspects of the proposals were discussed. These included the pilot project which had been conducted under an existing PPL held at another designated

establishment; the potential effects of different types of anaesthesia on the outcomes of the work and the lay paragraph.

18/66 The applicant was asked to amend the short lay paragraph to make clear what work would be done at the University and to make it clearer for a lay reader to understand. ACTION: NACWO, NVS and administrator to assist with revisions.

Application A350

18/67 The applicant gave a presentation of the work, concerned with central nervous system repair, to the Committee. Arrangements for experimental design and blinding where this would be possible were explained and following this the application was discussed. Discussions covered the choice of species and the need for clear justification for the use of each; statistics which were considered to be exemplary; likely side effects of the procedure; the severe classification and arrangements for applying humane endpoints. Arrangements for twice daily welfare assessments and measures that would be taken to ensure that adverse effects would be alleviated were explained.

18/68 The applicant was asked to clarify, in the application, which procedures would be done with which species and the criteria for the choice of species using typical examples where appropriate. Justification for the use of each species should also be included in the lay paragraph which would need to be written in lay terms. The Chair asked for this to be re-circulated to the Committee following amendment. The applicant was also asked to review the welfare assessment score sheet with the NACWO. ACTION: NACWO, NVS and administrator to assist with revisions.

Application A351

18/69 The applicant's deputy was welcomed to the meeting and the Committee received a presentation explaining the background to the proposed work which would aim to support the development of novel imaging techniques. The objective of the project would be to develop and refine techniques which would then be available for the wider research community and contribute to the 3Rs (reduction, refinement and replacement). Initially working with mice the project would identify methods to produce more data from fewer animals in a shorter duration. Taking lessons learned from the work with mice the project would then be extended to consider other species. The NACWO of the facility where this work will be conducted also expressed his views about the work and the application.

18/70 Following discussion the Committee asked that the application should be written to focus on what could be achieved within the five years of the project and initially, on what would be required locally. Arising from discussion the applicant was asked to include a number of changes including cross-validation in the plan of work and to review the numbers requested. In view of the need for considerable refinement of the application the Committee asked for the final draft to be re-circulated for final confirmation by the Committee before being submitted to the Home Office. ACTION: NACWO, NVS and administrator to assist with revisions, administrator to circulate final draft.

Application A352 and FR38

18/71 The applicant explained that the work was concerned with targeting cancer growth and spread. The project would employ the use of non-invasive imaging to develop smart delivery of drugs to target cancer and avoid harm to healthy cells. The Committee asked for information regarding devices used and whether they carried any risks to the animals. The applicant was asked to include this information in the application. Strong communications with the NACWO were acknowledged and it was agreed that the applicant should liaise with the NACWO regarding refinement of welfare scoring. Other aspects discussed included the need for more detail regarding the number of anaesthesia events, such as maximum frequency and time limits; management of toxicity which should be included in the adverse effects where appropriate; and the short lay paragraph which was considered to be too general.

18/72 The applicant was asked to refer back to progress made under the previous project in the short lay paragraph and to be more specific about the work to be done under the new application. ACTION: NACWO, NVS and administrator to assist with revisions.

NVS's report

Received paper AWERC/18/13

18/73 As reported by the PEL holder no further action had been necessary in relation to the outstanding Condition 18 report.

18/74 One of the units had had a recent health scare which had arisen as a result of a positive test for pinworms found in one animal out of 6 screened. However, a second comprehensive health screening conducted on a wider area of the facility had come back clear. Despite this, as a precaution, an additional cleaning regime had been put in place.

18/75 The NVS had been consulted about plans for four pieces of non-regulated work, and was satisfied that all four proposals fell below the Animal Scientific Procedures Act threshold.

Annual REDACTED Veterinary report

Received paper AWERC/18/14

18/76 The annual report from the veterinarian at REDACTED was received for information.

18/77 The Chair agreed to liaise with other members to arrange a visit to REDACTED.
Action: Administrator to provide the Chair with lay members' contact details.

Annual statistical report

Received paper AWERC/18/15

18/78 The Committee was told that there had been a slight drop in the number of mice used and that the use of other species had remained relatively stable. 79% of

regulated procedures undertaken at the University were reported as being within the sub-threshold and mild categories with 14% being moderate, 6% non-recovery and only 1% severe.

NACWOs' report

18/79 A NACWO reported that the light alarm system was working well. The NACWO also acknowledged that an extra cleaning schedule for the animal facility had been implemented despite a false positive report with regard to pinworms.

PPL Amendments

Received paper AWERC18/16

18/80 The summary of PPL reviews was received for information.

Schedule of business

Received paper AWERC18/18

18/81 The updated Schedule of Business was received for information.

Deferred and additional items for next meeting

18/82 It was agreed to defer the University of Leeds Biomedical Sciences Committee report, animal facilities update and review of Terms of Reference oversight 1(a) until the next meeting.

18/83 The Chair proposed that the presentation on harm-benefit from the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Hub meeting held at the University in February should be added to the Agenda for the meeting in June and the ethics case study should be shared with the Committee before the next meeting. ACTION: Administrator.

Training in Africa

18/84 A member reported that he had been delivering training for animal researchers in Africa and that guidelines for animal research ethics in Africa were being developed. The Committee acknowledged the contribution to sharing of good practice.

Date of next meeting

18/85 Thursday 6 June at 1400.