

The University of Leeds, Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee Minutes 6 June 2019

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 27 March 2019 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received paper AWERC18/19

18/86 The update on actions was received for information.

18/87 (M18/77) The Chair advised that a date for a visit to REDACTED had yet to be agreed. ACTION: Administrator.

18/88 (M 18/83) The Chair proposed that two members should prepare a case study for the Committee based on the ethics presentation delivered at the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Hub meeting. ACTION: Establishment licence (PEL) holder, named veterinary surgeon (NVS) and ethics members to draw up a proposal.

PEL holder's update

18/89 The PEL holder reported that two condition 18 reports had been submitted to the Home Office (HO) since the last meeting. Both had occurred on the same project licence (PPL) and within the limit of the severe protocol. It was anticipated that the HO inspector would accept the reports without further action being required.

NVS's report

18/90 The NVS elaborated on the Condition 18 report by the PEL holder. The first instance, in April, involved one animal on a study involving nine mice seven days after tumour cell implant. The second, two days before the meeting, had involved one animal out of thirty two on the study nine days after radiation therapy.

18/91 The NVS reported on a visit to the University animal facilities from a US veterinarian scientist.

Training report

Received paper AWERC/18/20

18/92 The demand for courses had remained constant with very few people having to attend external courses. Feedback from trainees had been good and specific comments would be discussed at the next Training Group meeting. A meeting of the Group would be arranged to coincide with the launch of a resource for practical training and assessment (Direct Observation of Practical/Procedural Skills – DOPS) by the Laboratory Animal Science Association in order to discuss how these might be put into use at the University. Pass/fail statistics would be reported to the

Committee when available. ACTION: Administrator.

University of Leeds Biomedical Services Committee report

18/93 The Committee was told that one meeting of the group had taken place, that another meeting was due and that there was nothing to report.

Animal Facilities update

18/94 The REDACTED had been tasked to propose different options on the future of animal facilities in Leeds. This proposal document would be submitted to the REDACTED executive for consideration. REDACTED would agree on the suitable option that should be put forward to the REDACTED and any animal welfare concerns in relation to the proposed option would be reported to the Committee. The PEL holder clarified that any proposals would be subject to the capital planning process and to the approval of the Council.

PPL applications and reviews

Application A353

18/95 The applicant's nominee gave a presentation detailing the group's interest in inflammatory diseases and the use of viruses in therapy after which the applicant joined the meeting by telephone. The Committee discussed the well-established procedures for observation to maintain animals within the severity limit of the protocols and the use of clear endpoints and a moderate severity to limit adverse effects. The applicant was asked to make clear, in the plan of work, any differences which the effect of therapies could have on animal welfare. Other matters discussed included arrangements for randomisation and blinding and power calculations. It was suggested that a typical example of the power calculations should be provided to indicate how the numbers in the protocols had been reached.

18/96 The Committee considered that the lay paragraph could be strengthened by using some of the text in the application. Members were invited to send any further specific comments on the application and lay paragraph to the applicant. ACTION: All, NVS to assist with revisions.

Application A354

18/97 The NVS explained that the PPL application was to continue part of the work currently being done under an existing licence in order to spread the workload. The applicant gave a presentation of the work proposed including arrangements for training of personnel at another establishment and project management arrangements. Matters discussed included the use of score sheets to assist with identifying humane end-points; the addition of a typical example of power calculations to the 3Rs (reduction, refinement and replacement) reduction section; steps to transfer expertise from another establishment back to the University and to identify and deal with any institutional differences.

18/98 The applicant was asked to clarify, in the project plan, what was going to happen to an animal and to consider the inclusion of a flow chart to clarify the sequence of

work in the protocols. It was agreed that the lay paragraph required revision and the Chair agreed to share points highlighted for change with the applicant. ACTION: Chair, NVS to assist with revisions.

Application A355

18/99 The applicant gave a presentation of the work which was concerned with development of methods used in genetically altered (GA) mouse breeding to improve the welfare of the significant number of animals involved. This would be achieved by eliminating the need to inject female recipient mice for oestrous synchronisation and the need to surgically prepare vasectomised male mice. The Committee agreed that the benefits of the application were clear as was the potential for wide application of the techniques. The applicant was asked to improve the lay paragraph and the use of a narrative style was suggested. ACTION: NVS to assist with revisions.

Amended lay paragraphs A348, A349 and A352

18/100 The Committee agreed that each of the amended lay paragraphs, whilst improved, still required further work to be sufficiently accessible for a lay reader. The Chair agreed to share suggestions for changes which could be conveyed to the applicants concerned. ACTION: Chair and administrator.

18/101 Suggestions to address the broader issue included the possibility of developing “stock phrases” that could be used and for running a session as part of an annual workshop/training/continuing professional development event for licensees. The Chair asked to be contacted regarding dates for the workshop when it is being arranged. ACTION: NVS and the member concerned.

Schedule of business

Received paper AWERC18/18

18/102 The updated Schedule of Business was received for information.

Deferred items

Review of Terms of Reference oversight 1(a) and 1(b).

18/103 It was agreed that, having previously reviewed the individual points in the Terms of Reference, it would be useful to take a different approach, not least to ensure that the way in which the Committee discharged its remit was reviewed holistically. Members were asked to give this some consideration before the next meeting. ACTION: All.

Review of the University’s animal research policy.

18/104 The NVS advised that the Communications team were looking at the development of additional material for the animal research pages. Whilst the general statement appeared within the Values and Responsibilities page it was acknowledged that online search results for animal research at the University led directly to the detailed information.

Harm benefit analysis, improving PPL applications.

18/105 The Committee was invited to reflect on the points made in the presentation before the next meeting. ACTION: All.

Date of next meeting

18/106 Wednesday 24 July at 1000.

In view of other commitments it was agreed that availability for the next meeting should be checked in advance. The Chair would be consulted about the schedule for meetings during the coming year. ACTION: Administrator.