



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 29th January [REDACTED]/Microsoft Teams Hybrid option
Minutes

- **1. Attendance and apologies.**

Apologies: [REDACTED]

- **Minutes of last meeting:**

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on December 11th 2023

- **Matters arising/Action points**

- None tabled.

- **2. Presentations to the committee:**

PPL transfer reference PL04-24: Presentation to the committee. The research focuses on [REDACTED] diseases with a specific focus on vector delivery, this has been used considerably in mouse models. Focus now is to model and develop this in this in a larger animal model. The applicant gave a summary of the techniques involved in these studies (reference protocol 8 granted PPL).

Questions:

1. Clarify previous sheep work: clarify if any sheep work has already been done under this project licence, to be clarified
2. Are there any impacts on immune function/liver function with this technique? None that the PPL holder is aware of.
3. Timescale: sheep work will be dependent on grant funding but this should not be before April/May.

Amendment reference A05-24: The aim of the amendment is to extend the induction time [REDACTED] to 30 days. Previous studies in [REDACTED] pigs have shown alterations after "switching on" the transgene in both brain and heart, the models could have applications for example in vascular dementia. No additional harms are anticipated and this amendment includes a 3Rs refinement. This work will form the basis of a future proposal for the characterization of [REDACTED] disease.

Questions:

1. Dosage: What is the rationale for the increased dose? Could this be done at a lower dose with a lower risk of adverse effects? Currently it does not appear that the increasing dose impacts the animals, no evidence to suggest this.

2. Are there cumulative effects? Unclear at the moment, no issues in mice observed. Additional monitoring will be included.
3. Is there any evidence that this model causes systemic hypertension? This can be very transient and is not sustained (24hrs following commencement). Can we clarify if blood pressure monitoring is part of the monitoring schedule going forward? Noted that the amendment will keep the option for blood pressure monitoring and thermal camera imaging.

Renewal PPL application: reference PL03-24

Renewal application: the applicant discussed the benefits of the work and also discussed proposed and previous research including the presentation of previously published data. The applicant also discussed 3Rs advances and this was done very well.

Questions:

1. The committee asked about details of numbers: there is an increase provided but this is reflected in the increase in funding.
2. [REDACTED]: a justification was requested for this, asked to retain in order to compare with previous studies.
3. Request to provide blood samples for commercial suppliers: this has only happened twice with the current PPL.

- **3. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB**

PL03-24 approved

PL04-24 (PPL transfer) (pending final comments) to be approved at Feb meeting.

- **4. Amendment applications under consideration by the AWERB:**

Amendment approved: A05-24

Amendment (primary availability [REDACTED]): A07-24

- **5. Updates and Reports**

- **BVS Director update:** none tabled.

- **NVS update:**

- Some animals sent to [REDACTED] had issues on arrival, now resolved.
- A non-procedural harm in one study occurred (naturally occurring [REDACTED]), strategies to reduce prevalence will be considered.
- Rabbit work is due to commence soon. PEL updated and approved.
- New position to assist with the collation of data for the returns has been advertised, this will also assist with tick@lab analysis.
- **NTCO update:** working on new SOPs for poultry in preparation for a potential full systems audit. Working on CPD for the department. Looking at modernising PIL processes, specifically looking at more automated systems and billing.
- **PEL Holder update:** none tabled
- [REDACTED] **AWERB report:**

- Returns in progress and almost all submitted. Presentations and support given to licence holders.
- Attended HOLTF meeting: reports of similar issues for example inconsistencies and delays common to all establishments.
- **Reports from Facilities**
 - [REDACTED]
 - phase 2 is still not complete, hopefully new facilities by September.
 - New lighting to go into [REDACTED] contractors are on site, some issues to rectify.
 - New funding in place for one group, several studies planned. Number of other studies are planned/ongoing including some translational studies (egg transfer studies applicable to humans). This study could potentially be high profile and attract media interest. Chicken study is planned for next month with a 6 week duration.
 - [REDACTED] a number of studies underway or planned for next year.
 - **Poultry :**
 - Chicks being moved to [REDACTED]
 - New staff member now in post which is very good news, full team now in place.
 - Another large cohort of chicks being delivered.
 - Permission for exports to Germany approved.
 - **Chick embryo room :** no report.
 - **Aquaculture Facility:**
 - Refurbishment now complete: Salmon to arrive this week.
 - CCTV: this is hoping to be implemented shortly.
 - Staffing levels good.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** replacement meeting to be held in April 2024
- **Project Licences *submitted*** to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting
PL32-23 [REDACTED]
- **Project Licence amendments *submitted*** to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting
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6, A.O.C.B: none

- **Date of next meeting:** February 26th [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams