

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CARDIFF UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010 AT 4.30 PM**

## **208 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (BSC/09/24) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **209 MATTERS ARISING**

### 209.1 Report from the Certificate Holder - Adverse incident [vide Minute 196.1]

NOTED that there has now been an outcome from the adverse incident reported to the Home Office in December 2008, and that it would be fully reported by the Certificate Holder in Agendum 11.

### 209.2 Home Office visits - Intra-peritoneal injections [vide Minute 196.4.2]

NOTED that this matter had been clarified with all licensees.

### 209.3 Annual Security Report - failed access control [vide Minute 196.8]

NOTED that the control in question had still not been repaired, but that engineers were expected to attend the following day;

### 209.4 Report from the NVS - Animal Drugs Policy [vide Minute 200.4]

NOTED that the policy had been disseminated and implemented.

### 209.5 Report from the Users' Group Scanner facility [vide Minute 201.4]

NOTED

- .1 that a working group had been established to identify one or more experts and formulate advice on the possibilities of providing a scanning service to all eligible users;
- .2 that the final decision on the operation of the facility will be taken by the Certificate Holder/JBIOS following a recommendation by the Committee;

### 209.6 Five Year Strategy Plan [vide Minute 205.5]

NOTED that no critical comments had been received from Schools, and that the JBIOS Operations Business Plan would be discussed at Agendum 14.

## **210 ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

No items from the Chair.

## **211 REPORT FROM THE BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS OFFICER**

Received papers BSC/09/27 "Licensing Report" and BSC/09/28 "Request under the Freedom of Information Act" and oral reports.

### 211.1 Visits by the Home Office Inspector

NOTED

- .1 that there had been two visits from the inspector since the last meeting, one of which was unannounced;
- .2 that the inspector had met with a number of Project Licence holders and applicants, and had inspected all facilities over the two visits;
- .3 that he had welcomed the initiative on pigeon housing for behavioural testing;
- .4 that he had inspected the S38 Health facility and was satisfied that it could be designated;
- .5 that he had discussed anaesthesia and analgesia regimes with one research group and had suggested that others might benefit from the outcome of this discussion. This had led to the NVS's review of anaesthesia and analgesia that would be in his report at Agendum 6;
- .6 that he had expressed some concerns over the S38 Health and Safety area, and had suggested that the Certificate Holder assess the risks carefully before applying for designation of the area.

### 211.2 Changes to the Certificate of Designation

NOTED that the principal changes had been a reorganization of NACWO responsibilities, the location of poultry accommodation, and the designation of the S38 Health and Safety

### 211.3 Licensing Report

NOTED

- .1 that since the last meeting, the Certificate Holder's Advisory Group had recommended six applications for amendments to existing project licences and two applications for continuation project licences;
- .2 that one of the applications for a continuation licence had left very little time for the inspector to have a new licence in place before the existing one had expired, and that temporary measures had had to be implemented;

**RESOLVED**

- .3 that the BSO, on behalf of the Committee, remind all Project Licence holders of the need to make timely preparations for continuation licences when animals were to be carried over between licences.

### 211.4 Freedom of Information request

NOTED

- .1 that a 12 point request had been made to the University by a known animal rights activist, and that the same request had been made to a number of other universities;

- .2 that the University had prepared a response to be sent shortly;

**RESOLVED**

- .3 that the Committee receive an overview of the response at the next meeting.

**212 REPORT FROM THE NAMED VETERINARY SURGEON**

Received paper BSC/09/29 "NVS Report for BSC"

**NOTED**

- 212.1 that a meeting had been held with licence holders who carry out surgical procedures to discuss anaesthesia and analgesia regimes, and that a survey of users was underway to inform the NVS's review of methods;
- 212.2 that no clinical problems had been seen in any area of the University since the last meeting;
- 212.3 that mouse parvovirus (MPV) has been detected in a recent screen at S38 Health and Safety and that its origin was being investigated and an exercise to eradicate it carried out;
- 212.4 that although MPV had previously been detected in S38 Health and Safety there were strong indications that an outside source was responsible;
- 212.5 that the S38 Health and Safety infection had been confined to a single room and that a second test had been made following removal of the suspected animals, and that this had shown negative results for MPV;
- 212.6 that infection with MPV has no clinical effect on healthy animals, but that it could have serious effects on the immunological research being carried out in that area;
- 212.7 that in response to the ingress of MPV, the users of the facility were re-reviewing SOPs, shipping movement forms, and health screen strategies;
- 212.8 that a nematode infection detected in the same facility was being treated with medicated feed;
- 212.9 that the importation of animal tissue into facilities raised an important risk of bio-contamination of animals in the facility;

**RESOLVED**

- 212.10 that the Committee's recommendation was for animal tissue imported into facilities to be screened in line with the screening requirements for whole animal importation, and that the NVS draw up a protocol to address this need.

**213 REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JBIOS FACILITIES**

Received paper BSC/09/30 from the Operational Director of JBIOS Facilities.

**NOTED**

- 213.1 that a new phase of recruitment following the NACWO restructuring was now under way;

- 213.2 that the refurbishment of the S38 Health and Safety facility, called for by the Home Office inspector over a year ago, still awaited ESTAT funding information;
- 213.3 that the licensing problem at the treatment centre dealing with some of the University's waste had now been resolved;
- 213.4 that a security issue had been raised concerning the ordering of animal products via the new accounting system, but that this only applied to orders from schools and not from JBIOS;
- 213.5 that additional licensee training following the statutory Modules had now been implemented and that this would improve licensees overall understanding of their responsibilities and good practice when using animals.

## **214 REPORT FROM THE USERS' GROUP**

Received paper BSC/09/31 and BSC/09/32 from the Users' Group.

NOTED

- 214.1 that the Users' Group had welcomed their consultation on fEC and Animal Maintenance Grants, but that there were still some concerns over the implementation;
- 214.2 that the Users' Group had expressed concerns over the lack of space for expansion in the facilities and that they had alerted Schools to this via the BSO;
- 214.3 that it was most important that schools alert JBIOS at an early stage when considering appointments of researchers who will want to use their areas, and that although this was always going to be problematic, improvements in this area had been noted;

## **215 REPORT FROM THE S38 Health and Safety BARRIER FACILITIES**

Received paper BSC/09/33 from the barrier representative.

NOTED

- 215.1 that a part-time cage wash/cleaning post had been created, which would help the technical staff to provide support and service to researchers;
- 215.2 that efforts were continuing to keep tight control over animal numbers whilst operations were contained S38 Health and Safety
- 215.3 that the new rat work S38 Health had begun;
- 215.4 that thirty lines of GA mice were now undergoing cryo-preservation, and of these eight had been completed. Test revivals had been carried out and had demonstrated the viability of the process.

## **216 CAPITAL MATTERS AND ESTATES REPORT**

Received an oral report from the Director of Estates Development (Building) and an oral report from the Director of Estates Development (Engineering)

NOTED

- 216.1 that work had begun on the S38 Health and Safety on 1 February and was expected to be finished in November 2010. ESTAT and JBIOS were monitoring water ingress and noise from the work;
- 216.2 that the proposed work to improve the S38 Health and Safety facility had been costed at £335k, and that this estimate had been passed on to the Barrier Management Team;
- 216.3 that the potential improvements to the barrier need not detract from the usefulness of the S38 Health and Safety barrier project in an overall barrier strategy, since barrier areas would be needed for experimental work on uncontaminated animals supplied from the barrier production area proposed for the S38 Health and Safety facility;
- 216.4 that progressing the proposal was dependent on a funding decision by BIOSI;
- 216.5 that the S38 Health and Safety project was out to tender with work due to start on 24 May and complete on 13 September 2010.

## 217 ITEMS FROM THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Received papers BSC/09/26 "Infringement" and an oral report.

### 217.1 Infringement

NOTED

- .1 that the infringement had now been formally notified by the Home Office, and that all efforts must be made to avoid any repetition of such a systems failure in future;
- .2 that the Certificate Holder had spoken to the Chair of the University Health Board about the importance of this matter;
- .3 that this area of risk must continue to be understood and overseen by the highest level of management, S38 Health and Safety  
S38 Health and Safety
- .4 that the situation would have been significantly worse had it not been for the swift and professional response by the JBIOS staff who discovered the problem;

## RESOLVED

- .5 that the Committee's concerns be conveyed to the Director of PAFRS

### 217.2 Project

NOTED

- .1 the Certificate Holder's concern that the history of building problems indicated a raised level of risk of building failure once the area was commissioned, designated, and in use;
- .2 that the disruption to work and the level of financial cost could be very high if building or plant failures occurred after designation;
- .3 that the Certificate Holder needed to be very confident that failure would not occur before he would apply for designation, and that all

measures must be taken to confirm the integrity of the project before the application was made;

- .4 that no-one could currently give the Certificate Holder the level of assurance that he needed;
- .5 that the Users' Group had discussed the situation and had proposed that alarm drills be carried out unannounced to the maintenance services both before designation and routinely thereafter, with a full, realistic response from the maintenance services required and recorded;
- .6 that running the area for a lengthy period in as realistic a way as possible before the designation application is made would be the best available way to confirm that compliance could be assured during real operation;
- .7 that researchers in the S38 Health and Safety were anxious to see animals established in the area, and that a timetable for testing and designation would help to progress this;

#### RESOLVED

- 217.3 that these concerns and proposals also be conveyed to the Director of PAFRS.
- 217.4 that ESTAT draw up a timetable for testing and designation, to be agreed by the Certificate Holder.

#### 218 PROJECT LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Received paper BSC/09/34 "*Development and plasticity of the visual cortex*", BSC/09/35 "*Abnormal movements in neurodegenerative disease*" and BSC/09/36 "*CD8 T cells in Type 1 Diabetes*".

- 218.1 "*Development and plasticity of the visual cortex*"

#### NOTED

- .1 that this was an application for a modest increase in the number of animals used in a project, but that because the project used a species of special sensitivity, this had to be considered carefully by the Committee;
- .2 that because the work was "fundamental" research, the estimation at the start of the project of the exact number of animals that would be required was necessarily difficult;
- .3 that there was no suggestion that the quality of the methods used had been at fault, but that insufficient data had been captured to obtain full value from the study;
- .4 that there was no indication in the application how either the additional or original number of animals had been calculated;

#### RESOLVED

- .5 that the applicant be asked to provide this information and that this be forwarded to the scientist members of the Committee and, if necessary, a statistician, so that an informed decision could be made;

218.2 "Abnormal movements in neurodegenerative disease"

NOTED

- .1 that this was an application for a new licence that had developed from an aspect of a much larger project licence, but that it did not duplicate work;

**RESOLVED**

- .2 that the application be recommended and that the applicant be informed of the decision;

218.3 "CD8 T cells in Type 1 Diabetes"

NOTED

- .1 that this was an application for secondary availability from a newly-appointed member of staff, and that there would be an application for a continuation licence in the near future that would be very similar in content;

**RESOLVED**

- .2 that the application be recommended and that the applicant be informed of the decision
- .3 that the application for a continuation licence, when received, could be seen by CHAG.

**219 ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT**

Received paper BSC/09/38 "Draft Infiltration Strategy" and BSC/09/39 "Security Forum" and oral report.

219.1 Draft Infiltration Strategy

NOTED

- 1. that the draft had been constructed in line with others in Universities with the aid of a new national organization;

**RESOLVED**

- .2 that the strategy be recommended for adoption.

219.2 Security Forum

NOTED

- .1 that the first such meeting had proved useful. And that it was likely that others would be included in future meetings;

**RESOLVED**

- .2 that users be kept informed of the Forum's outcomes.

**220 JBIOS OPERATIONS BUSINESS PLAN**

Received paper BSC/09/40 "JBIOS Operations Business Plan"

**NOTED**

- 220.1 that the plan originated from a recommendation in the JIAU audit of JBIOS and sets out the existing structure and proposed developments;
- 220.2 that the plan remained a draft until all comments had been received, especially those from users, the next Users' Group meeting to be held in mid-April;
- 220.3 that comments were especially needed on pages 12 to 14;
- 220.4 that the implementation of the plan would be overseen by JBIOS senior management, and that there would be an annual review;
- 220.5 that a staff training policy was not included and was being developed;
- 220.6 that the JIAU recommendation for benchmarking with other universities had been pursued, but that no other universities had responded to this request;

**RESOLVED**

- 220.7 that the paper be circulated to all project licence holders with a request for comments to be returned to the Director of NHSLU
- 220.8 that the plan be endorsed by the Committee.

**221 3Rs REPORT**

Received and NOTED Paper BSC/09/41

**222 QUALITY OF EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**

Received and NOTED Paper BSC/09/42

**223 SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE**

Received and NOTED Paper BSC/09/43

**224 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10 May 2010 at 4.00pm.