

Governance

Unrestricted Minutes

The Board received a presentation from [Redacted. Sec.40] in respect of his current Project Licence – novel therapeutics for central nervous system disorders. [Redacted. Sec.40] outlined the study and the following points were noted:

- x The service licence was: studies carried out on behalf of client companies to progress drug discovery projects for Central Nervous System (CNS) disorders.
- x Disorders of CNS disorders covered a very wide range of disease. The project licence covered rodent models of four CNS disorder subtypes: anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.
- x Current treatments for these disorders were associated with many significant side effects and were not disease modifying.
- x A significant unmet medical need remained in each of the CNS disorders covered by the licence.
- x Objectives were: to validate pharmacological targets for treating CNS disorders; to identify and screen compounds for treating CNS disorders; to test for possible side-effects on CNS disorder end-points of new agents.
- x Protocols were outlined as: determination of drug effects; stimulus-based models; model of seizure; assessment of animals previously administered neurotoxin; intracranial administration of specific neurotoxins.
- x Progress was as follows: work had taken place with three clients on projects for new Parkinson's disease treatments; screened novel compounds for 2 UK biotech companies intended for treatment of Parkinson's disease; screened novel compound intended for treatment of Parkinson's disease on behalf of a company spin out.
- x Animals used were as follows – Mice (1200 estimated in licence, actual number used to date 414, estimate of number still to be used 600, actual severity mild) Rats (2,300 estimated in licence, actual number used to date 334, estimate of number still to be used 600, actual severity mild).
- x Replacement, Reduction and Refinement were outlined.
- x The Saretius client relationship was explained. UK drug discovery effort had largely been transformed to contract research organisations – this fragmented process was working well.
- x

AWERB agreed that the section on lived experience could benefit from a better explanation. [Redacted. Sec.40] agreed to revise the form and share examples of good practice with those completing the reviews.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

21/5 Update on the welfare of animals during the lockdown period

In respect of animal welfare during the lockdown period the AWERB noted that:

BRU:

- x Several groups in SBS had continued research, and some groups restarted studies prior to the latest lockdown.
- x BRU staff had continued to work to fulfil the requests of research groups to ensure the animals required for studies had been maintained.
- x has

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