

Minutes of the Board meeting

10 October 2013

Present:

Board:

Professor Stephen Holgate CBE (SH, Chair)
Dr Phil Botham (PB)
Professor Maggie Dallman (MD, *arrived 11.30*)
Professor Jamie Davies (JD, Deputy Chair)
Professor Ian Kimber OBE (IK)
Dr Tony Peatfield (ACP)
Dr Ian Ragan (IR)
Dr Vicky Robinson (VR)
Dr Carl Westmoreland (CW)
Mr Neil Yates (NY)

Office:

Dr Kathryn Chapman (KC)
Dr Mark Prescott (MP)
Mr Dan Richards (DR, *left after item 5*)
Ms Ashley Scott, Secretariat (AS)
Ms Caroline Shriver (CS, *left after item 5*)

Apologies:

Dr Lesley Heppell

1. Welcome

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed members to the twenty-eighth meeting of the NC3Rs Board.
- 1.2. SH thanked IK for his past Chairmanship of the Board and informed members that IK would remain on the Board for a further three years, in his capacity as Chair of the Grant Assessment Panel.
- 1.3. Board members welcomed SH as the new Chair of the NC3Rs Board.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 15 July 2013

- 2.1. The minutes of the July 2013 meeting were agreed to be an accurate record of the discussions and would be published on the NC3Rs website.
- 2.2. There were two matters arising which were discussed under the items 4 and 5.
- 2.3. **[2.2 from July 2013 meeting]** Members noted that the Office had reallocated funds to make an additional award under the Infrastructure for Impact scheme, taking the total number to [four awards](#).
- 2.4. **[4.3 from July 2013 meeting]** VR informed members that three vacancies for scientific programme managers had been filled. The new staff would focus on Toxicology and Regulatory Sciences – Human Health, Toxicology and Regulatory Sciences – Environmental, and Disease Models, Efficacy and Safety Pharmacology.

3. Summary of activities

3.1. Members noted progress with a range of activities:

- Programmes and planning of workshops and symposia;
- The number of applications received for the 2013 Studentship Scheme and the [Strategic Call on 'Imaging Technology Development for the 3Rs'](#);
- The call to universities to endorse the [ARRIVE](#) guidelines on reporting animal research;
- Establishment of a working group to evaluate the effect of age on study outcome for a variety of rodent models of efficacy and safety.

3.2. Members noted that preparations for the [2013 3Rs Prize](#) were underway. The Call for applications would be announced in October 2013.

3.3. Members noted progress with CRACK IT including:

- Launch of the [five CRACK IT Challenges for the 2013](#) call covering Alzheimer's disease, kidney toxicity, cardiac contractility, asthma research and development, and infectious disease modelling;
- Funding secured for the 2013 CRACK IT Challenges competition from the [Technology Strategy Board \(TSB\)](#) and [Alzheimer's Research UK](#);
- Award of three [CRACK IT Solutions](#) grants.

4. Updates

4.1. [Item 7.3 from July 2013 meeting] NC3Rs/Technology Strategy Board Collaboration (TSB)

4.1.1. KC informed Board members that the NC3Rs had held two joint workshops with the TSB in July and August. The aim of the workshops was to establish the extent to which emerging non-animal technologies are ready to be used in academia and industry, and how to accelerate their commercial availability.

4.1.2. Members were informed that as a result of discussions at the workshops non-animal technologies had been selected as one of two themes for the TSB '*Emerging technologies and industries*' competition. Up to £4m of funding (from the NC3Rs, TSB, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)) would be made available for feasibility studies into how non-animal technologies can be further developed and applied to improve product development across a range of industries.

4.1.3. Members were informed that a series of [networking and partnering workshops](#) would be organised in December and January to build consortia to enter the competition.

4.1.4. VR thanked IR, IK, CW and JD for their contributions at the July and August workshops.

4.1.5. Members noted and thanked KC for all of her hard work on this new initiative.

4.2. Coalition pledge to work to reduce the use of animals

4.2.1. VR updated the Board on recent activities and delivery of the pledge, including meetings with ministers and written updates on NC3Rs activities.

5. Communications strategy

- 5.1. **[Item 8.2 from the July 2013 meeting]** DR introduced the NC3Rs Communications and Public Engagement Strategy for 2014 - 2019.
- 5.2. Members noted and agreed the aims of the strategy, which were to:
- Stimulate active engagement on the 3Rs from the scientific community;
 - Facilitate greater public recognition, appreciation and support of the NC3Rs' work and 3Rs science as a whole through expanded digital communications including a new NC3Rs website.
- 5.3. Initial activities will be focussed on:
- Supporting NC3Rs funded scientists to engage in dialogue with the public on their research and the 3Rs benefits;
 - Using the 10 year anniversary activities to launch the NC3Rs public engagement strategy including launch of the new NC3Rs website.
- 5.4. Members noted that the NC3Rs had signed up to the [RCUK Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research](#) and would benchmark its public engagement activities against those of the other concordat signatories.
- 5.5. Members noted that a report would be produced annually on performance and outputs against each of the objectives of the communication strategy and noted that a Communications Officer would be recruited to support the increased communications activities.

6. Strategy review

- 6.1. Members discussed the NC3Rs strategy; this was a closed session and will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.

7. AOB and meeting close

- 7.1. There was no other business.
- 7.2. The next meeting of the NC3Rs Board would be held on 6 February 2014. *[THIS MEETING SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED, WITH THE NEXT MEETING ON 1 JULY 2014]*

NC3Rs

October 2013