

## Minutes of the Board meeting

23 October 2018

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### **Present:**

Professor Stephen Holgate CBE (SH) *Chair*  
Mr Paul Brooker (PF)  
Professor Paul Garside (PG)  
Dr David Lovell (DL)  
Dr Ceri Lyn-Adams (CLA)  
Professor Stefan Przyborski (SP)  
Dr Frances Rawle (FR)  
Dr Ian Ragan (IR)  
Dr Vicky Robinson (VR)  
Professor Blanca Rodriguez (BR)  
Professor Lucy Walker (LW)

### **Office:**

Dr Katie Bates (KB)  
Emma Stokes (ES)  
Dr Mark Prescott (MP) *item 3*  
Dr Suzanne McArdle (SM)  
Kayleigh Purdon (KP) *Secretariat*

### **Apologies:**

Professor Chris Denning (CD)  
Mr Paul Finnemore (PF)  
Professor Jon Timmis (JT)

## **1. Welcome**

- 1.1 SH welcome members to the meeting.
- 1.2 IR's term on the Board has now come to an end. SH and VR both thanked IR for his contributions and wise council over the years which has been hugely valuable both in the establishment and growth of the NC3Rs.

## **2. Update on the oncology programme**

- 2.1 VR provided the Board with an update on the NC3Rs oncology programme. Members noted the progress of the programme and were supportive of the Centre's collaboration with Cancer Research UK and the National Cancer Research Institute.

## **3. Update on the review of the ARRIVE guidelines**

- 3.1 MP gave the Board an update on the review of the ARRIVE guidelines. Members acknowledged the Centre's self-critical approach towards the revision and suggested the development of guidance material specifically for reviewers may help to improve the standard of reporting.

## **4. NC3Rs summary on activities and updates**

- 4.1 The Board noted the update on current activities.
- 4.2 VR provided further details on the following:

### 2018 Highlight notice

There were no awards made under the joint BBSRC highlight notice seeking to reduce reliance on mammalian models of ageing. BBSRC also noted a disappointing number of fundable applications under this highlight. Both BBSRC and the NC3Rs are investigating the highlight notice was not as successful as previous ones.

### CRACK IT review

Staff are conducting a review of the CRACK IT programme to highlight its 3Rs and business impacts. The review will be published in 2019.

Charles River, a major UK contract research organisation has agreed to conduct a validation study of the Rodent Big Brother project to further promote the uptake of the home cage analyser system.

### Ecotoxicology

The working group has re-convened. A meeting was held in July 2018 to identify new projects in this area.

### Animal Welfare

A new working group has been established with the purpose of analysing data on the use of mice and rats in high yield sensory discrimination tasks. The group aim to identify opportunities for refinement and disseminate the recommendations to the research community.

Staff have continued to develop the mouse handling resources, with further guidance and strategies for implementing the refined handling methods published on the hub. The Office also hosted a webinar with Professor Jane Hurst, University of Liverpool, on 27 April to encourage further uptake of the handling method. In addition, the Animals in Science Regulation Unit recently announced a thematic review of the refined mouse handling method.

The Office have launched a dedicated newsletter, Tech3Rs, for use by animal technicians. Tech3Rs will feature updates on recent advances in the 3Rs, as well as highlighting relevant new resources and upcoming events.

An agreement with the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China was signed on 18 October. The collaboration will see UK and Chinese scientists work together to promote and develop novel 3Rs approaches and applications.

## **5. Review of the NC3Rs Strategy 2017 to 2019**

- 5.1 The Board reviewed progress made to date, on the delivery of commitments detailed in the NC3Rs Strategy. Members agreed that there had been excellent progress. Members also discussed the evolution of the programmes beyond 2019 as a foundation for preparing for the next Quinquennial Review of the Centre.

## **6. AOB**

- 6.1 The NC3Rs to invite Dr Thomas Wishart from the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh to give a presentation at the next Board meeting on gene editing.
- 6.2 The Board requested an update on the toxicology programme. VR to contact Professor Ian Kimber, the NC3Rs Toxicology Ambassador, to attend the next meeting.