

Dear colleague

Welcome to the second AWERB-Hubs network newsletter from the Animals in Science Committee (ASC).

In this edition we provide additional links to useful resources and materials and highlight the recent Harm Benefit Analysis Review by the ASC.

The ASC hosted a workshop for the AWERB Hub Chairs in March. The workshop tackled issues faced by AWERBs such as improving non-technical summaries, developing ethical discussion and advice. The workshop also discussed how some AWERBs were reviewing animal research proposals which did not fall under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA). The workshop output is a presentation and report that will be sent to Hub chairs to circulate to their AWERB members. If your AWERB is not yet part of a Hub, please [contact](#) the ASC's Secretariat.

The European Commission (EC) has recently updated its list of resources regarding animal use for scientific purposes.

This [useful resource](#) includes: guidelines for good scientific practice; film resources for animal handling; and additional materials for the use of fish in research. There is also a collection of presentations from the EC's Non-Animal Approaches conference held in December 2016.

We are keen to receive your feedback on this newsletter. We invite you to tell us what issues you would like to raise with us, topics you would like to hear about from us, and what resources you need to help you run your AWERB and achieve all its tasks. Please email the ASC secretariat: (asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

The AWERB Subgroup would like to extend its thanks to Penny Hawkins who has retired from the group. During the four years of her membership, Penny has been unstinting in her support of the group's aims, in particular making a significant contribution to the Hub initiative.

Useful links

[RSPCA-LASA Guiding principles on good practice for AWERBs](#)

These 'Guiding Principles' are intended to help interpret the requirements for UK local AWERBs and share good practice

[RSPCA-LASA Guidance on developing induction materials for AWERB members](#)

This will help develop induction for AWERB members, including identifying key skills, orienting new members and developing an induction 'pack'.

Your ASC AWERB subgroup



John Landers
(Chair)



Ken
Applebee



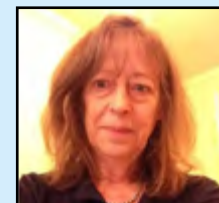
Donald
Bruce



Wendy
Jarrett



Sally
Robinson



Clare
Stanford



Gilly
Stoddart

The HUB

The ASC newsletter for AWERBs

The harm benefit analysis (HBA) is the cornerstone of the ethical analysis and justification of the use of animals in research. The UK ASPA requires that an HBA is undertaken for each programme of work to determine whether the harm that could be caused to protected animals, in terms of suffering, pain, distress, and lasting harm, can be justified by the expected outcome. This analysis should take into consideration, amongst other things, human or animal benefits, and animal welfare, ethical and societal concerns. Following a Ministerial commission, the ASC undertook a substantial review of the HBA process and has published this report [online](#) as a resource for all who are interested in the use of animals in research.

The dynamic nature of the HBA can be refined, and the review highlights 27 recommendations which could be implemented to ensure the HBA remains sufficiently robust. We encourage members of AWERBs to read the report and identify recommendations that their AWERBs could discuss and apply within their establishments.

The HBA review has been summarised in [Nature Lab Animals](#), and the ASC welcome any [feedback](#) on the review or on the HBA process itself.



Useful links

[RSPCA-LASA-LAVA-IAT Guidance on delivering effective ethical review: the AWERB as a 'forum for discussion'](#)

[Guidance on fulfilling the 'forum for discussion' task.](#)

[JRC Science for Policy Report \(2016\)](#)

[Accelerating progress in the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal testing through better knowledge sharing.](#)

[Animals in Science Regulation Unit \(2015\)](#)

[Identification and management of patterns of low-level concerns at licensed establishments](#)

[Implementation of the Directive 2010/63/EU \(2014\)](#)

[A working document on Inspections and Enforcement to fulfil the requirements under the Directive.](#)

The HUB

The ASC newsletter for AWERBs

Recent ASC publications

The full HBA report can be downloaded from the [ASC website](#). The ASC has also recently published the Terms of Reference for both its AWERB and Project Licence Application subgroups. The latter explains the remit of the ASC when considering licences referred to it by ASRU. The Licence Referral Review has also been published; this explains the types of licences the ASC reviews and discusses whether the ASRU referral process could be streamlined or improved.

If you would like to receive automatic updates of publications from the ASC, you can subscribe to our news feed [email distribution](#) list.

Information for Hubs

The AWERB Regional Hubs have all met and the feedback from the meetings has been positive. Some Hubs have organised their own workshop days on key topics such as ethical review or experimental design. If you would like ideas and inspiration to help you run a workshop, please contact the [secretariat](#) who can share copies of past agendas for workshop days.

Events

- The RSPCA will hold a Lay Members' Forum in Scotland, in September 2018. If you would like to be notified of the final date, venue and agenda, please contact research.animals@rspca.org.uk

News

The ASC is extremely grateful for the service of Dr John Landers as Chair, and is now seeking a new Chair for the next 3 years. Applications for this position were advertised on the [Public Appointments](#) website, closing on 11th March 2018.

Contact

We are keen to receive any feedback on this newsletter or contributions to share with the Hub network. Please send any ideas or thoughts to the ASC Secretariat :(asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

Useful links

[NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant](#)

An online tool to guide researchers through experimental design, statistical analysis and ensure the minimum number of animals are used.

[Book on Statistics for Veterinary and Animal Science \(2013\)](#)

A useful book on the statistical methodology for the use of animals in science.

[Guidance on the Description of Animal Research in Scientific Publications](#)

A publication from the National Research Council (US) Institute for Laboratory Animal Research

[The Design and Statistical Analysis of Animal Experiments](#)

A practical guide to experimental design and statistics of animal experiments.

[Annual Events](#)

RSPCA Lay Members Forum (London)