

# RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)

## MEETING MINUTES

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 | 11:00am Online Videoconference (via Zoom)**

**PRESENT:** **Geraldine Scanlon (Chair)**, Mark Philbin (Vice Chair), Fiona Brennan, Adam Platt, Peter Nowlan, Michael Parkinson, Ethna Regan, Joss Moorkens, Andy Healy, Mary Sharp, Melrona Kirrane, Damian O'Donohue, Audrey Bryan.

**APOLOGIES:** Bert Gordijn, Gavin Brown.

**REVIEWED BY:**

<b>AGENDA:</b>			
<b>1. AGENDA</b>			
<b>2. REC CHAIR UPDATE</b>			
<b>3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 &amp; MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b>			
<b>4. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS</b>			
<b>5. UPDATE FROM THE ANIMAL WELFARE BODY (AWB)</b>			
<b>6. AOB</b>			
<i>a. Obtaining consent/assent when working with children</i>			
<i>b. Responses to the changes that have been made by REC (distributed in the research newsletter)</i>			
<i>c. REC website changes</i>			
<i>d. REC framework (based on Satori framework)</i>			
<b>KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:</b>			
<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Comment/Decision</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1.	Agenda Adopted	N/A	N/A
2.	<p>REC Chair explained the current situation regarding the REC membership. Nominations have been provided by most of the Deans. Next meeting of the Research Committee (RC) will be on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.</p> <p>COVID-19 regulations and their impact on research proposals were discussed. If applicants/researchers state that they will be abiding with all the COVID-19 protocols, at that particular time, this should be enough. The REC can highlight any deficiencies in proposals to applicants/researchers, if they are apparent.</p>	N/A	N/A

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3.	<p>Minutes from previous full committee meeting (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020) were approved.</p> <p>Outstanding applications are awaiting responses from applicants.</p> <p>Total of 5 amendments to existing protocols which have been approved in the period of the 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>	N/A	N/A
		N/A	N/A
		N/A	N/A

**4. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS:** All REC Ref Numbers highlighted in **RED** are COVID-19 related applications which were reviewed outside of usual REC meeting dates.

REC Ref No.	Comments	Decision
2020_189	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_190	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_191	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_192	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_193	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_194	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_195	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_196	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_197	Approved	Approved
2020_198	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_199	Approved	Approved
2020_200	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_201	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2020_202	Approved	Approved

**KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:**

Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
5.	<p>No AWB meeting since our last REC meeting.</p> <p>The EU has changed its stance on producing antibodies in animals. AWCO believes that this</p>	N/A	N/A

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	only refers to the mass production of antibodies rather than for research purposes. The AWB are currently reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis.		
6.a.	<p>The REC discussed obtaining assent from children who are very young.</p> <p>Decided that the onus should be on the applicant/researcher to demonstrate that there is a process in place to try and obtain assent from children. If assent cannot be obtained, it should be documented as to why it couldn't be (lack of understanding, unable to retain the information, etc.).</p>	N/A	N/A
6.b.	<p>The REC Chair has agreed to give a workshop to PhD and post-graduate students on moving research online.</p> <p>The REC have put in place new and updated methods/resources to assist researchers when moving research online.</p>	N/A	N/A
6.c.	<p>The REC website has been updated with all of the new resources that the REC have developed.</p> <p>The format of the REC website is currently a work in progress. Eventually the look of the REC website will change to make it easier to navigate and access information/materials.</p>	N/A	N/A
6.d.	The REC framework discussion/meeting has been put on hold until the new REC members are onboarded.		
	<b>Next REC Committee meeting scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020</b>	N/A	N/A