

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (REC)

MEETING MINUTES

Friday 17th December 2021 | 11:00am Online Videoconference (via Zoom)

PRESENT: Melrona Kirrane (Chair), Adam Platt, Fiona Brennan, Michael Parkinson, Damian O'Donohue, Claire McCarrick, Gareth Jones, Andy Healy, Kate Irving, Mengting Wang, Michael Breen, Bert Gordijn, Brendan Egan, Silvia Rocchetta, Ellen Drumm, Joan O'Connell (DPU), Geraldine Healy (DPU)

APOLOGIES: Audrey Bryan, Marta Rocchi (on leave), Peter Nowlan, Anne Morrissey, Mary Sharp, Dónal Mulligan (FHSS F-REC Chair), Aisling Ní Dhiorbhain (IoE FERP Chair)

REVIEWED BY: DCU REC

AGENDA:			
1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA			
2. REC CHAIR UPDATE			
3. UPDATE FROM THE AWB a. Update from the ACWO			
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING OF 19th NOVEMBER 2021 & MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING			
5. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS			
6. AOB			
KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:			
Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
1.	Agenda Adopted	N/A	N/A
2.	The following are summations of the main updates provided by the REC Chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The REC Chair, Secretary and Administrator have been involved in initial discussions with the DCU futures team. This project is looking for input on 9 new undergraduate programmes, specifically on helping to steer the design of a module on ethics as a transversal skill. - Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) has commissioned consultants to conduct a research integrity audit across institutions in Ireland. DCU is currently 	N/A N/A	N/A N/A

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	<p>undergoing review, with key individuals within the university being interviewed. The REC Chair and Administrator will be interviewed by the consultancy company on the 11th of January, in relation to research ethics and research integrity. The purpose of the audit is to perform a gap-analysis of current research integrity policies and procedures within the university.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The REC Chair has been approached by the NeuroInsight programme to provide some input on the project, along with other REC chairs at other institutions in Ireland. 	N/A	N/A
3.	<p>The Animal Care and Welfare Officer (ACWO) provided a brief update to REC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following on from the last update, in relation to the production of antibodies via non-animal methods, the EURL ECVAM have clarified that they are not banning this approach in all circumstances. However, the starting point for researchers should be to exhaust all non-animal approaches and then only use animals if there is no alternative. - There is likely to be an application that will be submitted to DCU REC that is looking to find a non-animal antibody approach. 		
4.	<p>The minutes from the previous full committee meeting (19th November 2021) were approved.</p> <p>A total of 7 amendments to existing protocols have been approved in the period of the 19th November 2021 – 17th December 2021</p>	N/A	N/A

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REC Ref No.	Comments	Decision
5. REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS: All REC Ref Numbers highlighted in RED were applications reviewed outside of usual REC meeting dates.		
2021_250	Approved	Approved
2021_251	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_252	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_253	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_254	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_255	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_256	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_257	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_258	Approved	Approved
2021_259	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_260	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_261	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_262	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_263	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_264	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_265	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_266	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_267	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_268	Approved	Approved
2021_269	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_270	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_271	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)
2021_272	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)

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2021_273	Requires clarification(s)	Pending Clarification(s)	
2021_274	Approved	Approved	
KEY COMMENTS/ACTIONS:			
Agenda No.	Comment/Decision	Action	Timescale
6.	<p>The following point was raised in relation to research where a third party (e.g. a dementia sufferer) has not provided (and is not capable of providing) consent, but is not involved in the research in any way, other than that their illness qualifies them to take part.</p> <p>“In cases where the researcher wants to interview people whose parents have both been diagnosed with dementia, to determine the level of concern that such people have concerning their own mental health in later life, what GDPR/data protection elements need to be considered? In this example, by participating in the research, the participant has provided personal health data of their parents to the researcher. As a result, does the researcher now find himself/herself in possession of personal data, perhaps even 'special category' personal data without the consent of the individuals concerned, and, if so, where does the researcher stand with regard to GDPR ?”</p>	For discussion with DPU.	Not defined.
	Next REC Committee meeting scheduled for 28th January 2022	N/A	N/A