

RSPCA Lay Members' Forum



14 December 2021 - online

Programme

09.55 Welcome and introduction - Maggy Jennings, RSPCA

Session 1 - Policy and topical issues

10.00 **The Home Office Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) Change Programme**
This Programme, implemented on 1 July, brought new approaches to the way in which ASRU inspects and regulates the care and use of animals in science. This is an opportunity to hear a brief update on the Programme from an ASRU, then discuss the changes with other lay members.
Will Reynolds, ASRU Head of Unit, Finnuala Lonsdale, ASRU Change Programme Lead

10.40 **The Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill - the story so far**
This Bill has attracted controversy and has been widely misinterpreted; what might it actually mean for animals?
Penny Hawkins, RSPCA

10.50 **Discussion - how well is the AWERB supported and engaged with?**
During lockdown, many AWERBs were not properly consulted during decision-making that affected both staff and animal welfare, e.g. on when to stop projects, fates of animals, or mitigating impacts on animal technologists. In some cases, this brought long-standing issues around communications with, and support for, AWERBs to the fore. Following a short talk about one AWERB member's experience, we will discuss what learnings there have been regarding engagement with AWERBs during lockdown, and how we can use these to improve support, communications and engagement with the AWERB in the future.
Presentation: Michael Addelman and Max Elstein, University of Manchester

11.15 **Break**

Session 2 - Animal welfare and the 3Rs Chair: Barney Reed, RSPCA

11.30 **Enrichment for laboratory fishes**
Laboratory fishes, such as zebrafish, are still often not provided with environmental enrichment. This talk will set out the scientific evidence that fishes benefit from enrichment and some resources for your AWERB to promote.
Chloe Stevens, RSPCA

11.45 **3Rs self-assessment tools**
The NC3Rs has developed two 3Rs self-assessment tools, one for research groups and the other for research institutions. This overview will provide information to help your AWERB encourage use of the tools at your establishment.
Jessica Eddy, NC3Rs

11.55 **Organ-on-a-chip - what's it all about?**
There have been exciting developments in Non-Animal Technologies (NATs) including organs-on-chips, with ever greater potential to replace animal experiments. This brief explanation will provide you with essential background information and set out what the technology currently can - and cannot - do.
Speaker from UK-wide Organ-on-a-Chip Technologies Network

12.10	Dealing with Replacement <i>AWERBs are tasked with promoting awareness of the 3Rs, and advising on their application, but identifying direct replacements can require specialist knowledge and search skills. We will discuss approaches that AWERBs can use to facilitate Replacement with the expertise available to them.</i>
12.40	Lunch
Session 3 - Training in ethics and the Culture of Care Chair: Chloe Stevens	
1.30	RSPCA/LASA guiding principles to help deliver ethics learning outcomes for personal licensees <i>This new document relates to module 2 of the mandatory training courses for licensees, and you may like to recommend it for licensees at your establishment and/or ask to receive some of the training.</i> Manuel Berdoy, University of Oxford
1.40	Care-full stories workshop <i>This new, free teaching resource provides training in the culture of care, using an interactive, 'storytelling' approach. This is your opportunity to try it for yourself!</i> Beth Greenhough, Animal Research Nexus
2.35	Break
Session 4 - The role of the lay member Chair: Penny Hawkins	
2.50	Three 5 minute talks <i>Talks from lay members who are new, with 2 to 5 years, and over 5 years of experience; setting out how they interpret the role and what they wish they knew, or had known when they started. This topic was the most requested in your feedback following the last Forum in 2019.</i>
3.05	Discussion on the role of the lay member
3.45	Closing comments
3.50	End

Registration form: tinyurl.com/RSPCALMF21

Participant fee: free of charge, but a donation to help support our work would be greatly appreciated

Contact: animalsinscience@rspca.org.uk