Animal research abroad and international collaborations: principles of good governance

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Animal research abroad and international collaborations

• What are the risks associated with global collaborations and how can these be mitigated?
• How aware should we be of the standards of animal care and welfare in other countries?
• What should an effective due diligence programme look like?
• What percentage of academic institutions are engaged in animal research outside the UK?
• How many institutions involved in animal research abroad are covered by the EU Directive?
• Do local academic AWERBs consider applications where all or part of the research is conducted outside the UK?
• What does good governance look like and are institutions aware of published best practice?
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• mixed picture, not 1 measure fits all (because of different type of relationships, collaborations) > student collaboration vs PPL holder collaboration
• Monitoring of collaboration is resource intensive. Attendees discussed the usefulness of a risk based approach (examples of best practice were shared) > potentially need to disseminate them further
• To improve oversight processes you need top down support and buy in from establishment and not just driven by AWERBs
• governance of these issues is very different in pharma vs academia; with AWERBS tasked with responsibility of assessing collaborations in academia
• your institution reputation is at risk and this should inform the way you manage the risk (due diligence process are needed)