

Statement supporting European Directive 2010/63/EU (“Directive”) on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes

The use of animals in research has facilitated major breakthroughs in medicine which have transformed human and animal health. We support research using animals where alternative methods are not available, where the potential benefits to health are compelling, and where acceptable ethical and welfare standards can be met.

The European Directive 2010/63/EU has enhanced animal welfare standards and introduced the concepts of refinement, replacement and reduction (‘3Rs’) across the EU, while ensuring Europe remains a world leader in biomedical research. Under this Directive, animals may be used in research where the potential medical, veterinary and scientific benefits are compelling and there is no viable alternative method.

For research using animals to be both ethical and scientifically rigorous and authorised according to the Directive, it must meet high welfare standards and embed the 3Rs. The 3Rs are:

- **Replacement** – methods which avoid or replace the use of animals;
- **Reduction** - methods which minimise the number of animals used per experiment;
- **Refinement** – methods which minimise any suffering and improve animal welfare.

Developments for alternative methods to the use of animals in research, such as the use of human cell models and computer modelling, continue to progress and scientists must continue to drive these forward. However, alternative methods are not able to fully replace the use of animals at this time. For many diseases, including complex conditions such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes, which affect multiple organs, we must understand how the whole organism interacts, which means that research using whole animals continues to be essential.

Research using animals has enabled major advances in the understanding of biology and has contributed to the development of nearly every type of treatment used in medical and veterinary practice today. Currently, research on animals continues to be necessary to understand human and animal health and disease, and to develop and improve treatments for patient benefit across the world.

186 signatories to the statement



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The image displays a grid of logos from various research institutions, universities, and organizations. The logos are arranged in a roughly rectangular layout, with some overlapping. The institutions include:

- mnda** (motor neurone disease association)
- NIB** (National Institutes of Bioscience)
- NFU** (Netherlands Cancer Institute)
- NCI** (Netherlands Cancer Institute)
- Newcastle University**
- Parkinson's UK** (CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.)
- EGAN** (Patients Network for Medical Research and Health)
- Pfizer**
- The Physiological Society**
- PRBB** (Barcelona Biomedical Research Park)
- Pro-Test Italia**
- Queen Mary University of London**
- Reumatikerförbundet**
- The Royal Society**
- Royal Society of Biology**
- Sanofi**
- Science Europe** (Life, Environmental and Geo Sciences Committee)
- SBE**
- SEBD** (Sociedad Española de Biología del Desarrollo)
- SEBBM** (Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular)
- SEBiot** (Sociedad Española de Biotecnología)
- SeD** (Sociedad Española de Diabetes)
- Xeg**
- SEI** (Sociedad española de Inmunología)
- SENC** (Sociedad española de neurociencias)
- SECCAL** (Sociedad española para las ciencias del animal de laboratorio)
- Society for Endocrinology**
- Society for General Microbiology**
- SRUK CERU** (Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom)
- Speaking of research**
- Suomen Fysiologiyhdistys** (SuFY)
- SAMS** (Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences)
- Trinity College Dublin**
- Understanding Animal Research**
- Universidad San Jorge** (GRUPO SANVALERO)
- Universitas Miguel Hernández**
- Universitat Ramon Llull**
- jcu** (Universitätsmedizin Mainz)
- Université de Liège**
- Universiteit Antwerpen**
- Universiteit Gent**
- UCD** (University of Dublin)
- UCL**
- University of Aberdeen**
- University of Birmingham**
- University of Cambridge**
- The University of Nottingham** (UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA)
- University of Oxford**
- Vall d'Hebron Institut de Recerca** (VHIR)
- VHIO** (VALL D'HEBRON Institute of Oncology)
- VBio** (Verband Biologie, Biowissenschaften & Biomedizin in Deutschland)
- vfa** (Die forschenden Pharma-Unternehmen)
- VSNU** (vereniging van universiteiten association of universities THE NETHERLANDS)
- Vetenskapsrådet**

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