

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.

227 signatories to the statement



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ELLEGAARD ••
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Epilepsy
Advocacy
Europe

EuFishBioMed
European Society for Fish Models in Biology and Medicine e.V.

eulife

Euro-CASE

Euro Science

EuropaBio
The European Association for Bioindustries

European Academies
ea sac
Science Advisory Council

European Animal
Research Association

EACPT

EBC
European Brain Council

eclam
European College of
Laboratory Animal Medicine

**EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

FELABA

efpia
European Federation of Pharmaceutical
Industries and Associations

EHA
EUROPEAN HEADACHE ALLIANCE

ehn fighting heart disease
and stroke
european heart network

EATRIS
European Infrastructure for
Translational Medicine

EMBL

EORTC
European Organisation for Research
and Treatment of Cancer

EPF European
Patients
Forum

EPHAR
THE FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN
PHARMACOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

esmi
European Society for Molecular Imaging

epr
sc

**EUROPEAN
SOCIETY OF
CARDIOLOGY®**

ESLAV
EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF
LABORATORY ANIMAL VETERINARIANS

EVERI

EZRC

FEAM
Federation of European
Academies of Medicine

felasa
Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations

FENS Federation of
European
Neuroscience
Societies

FVE

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PER LA SCLEROSI LATERALE AMIOTROFICA

IMP
Research Institute of Molecular Pathology

FMI
Friedrich Miescher Institute
for Biomedical Research

Genetic Alliance UK
Supporting. Campaigning. Uniting.

GSCN
GermanStemCellNetwork

GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GENETIK

GIRCOR
Groupe Interprofessionnel de Réflexion
et de Communication sur la Recherche

gsk

IG-M

gsm
Gruppo Italiano Staminelli Mesenchimali

RH

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