

Benefits

By providing accurate and evidence-based information on the benefits of biomedical animal research, the European Animal Research Association (EARA) will inform, educate and unify audiences in support of research.

The ultimate benefits to be achieved through membership of EARA are:

- Fostering favourable conditions in Europe for research using animals.
- Gaining broader economic, legislative, and personal support for animal research.
- Increased openness and transparency so that reference to animal research becomes an accepted and discussed part of scientists' work.
- Profit from the collective effort and knowledge of an organisation recognized by European authorities as the unified and reliable voice of publicly and privately funded biomedical animal research.

Membership

Profit and non-profit organisations can join EARA when their activities directly include the use or supply of animals for education or research in biomedical scientific disciplines.

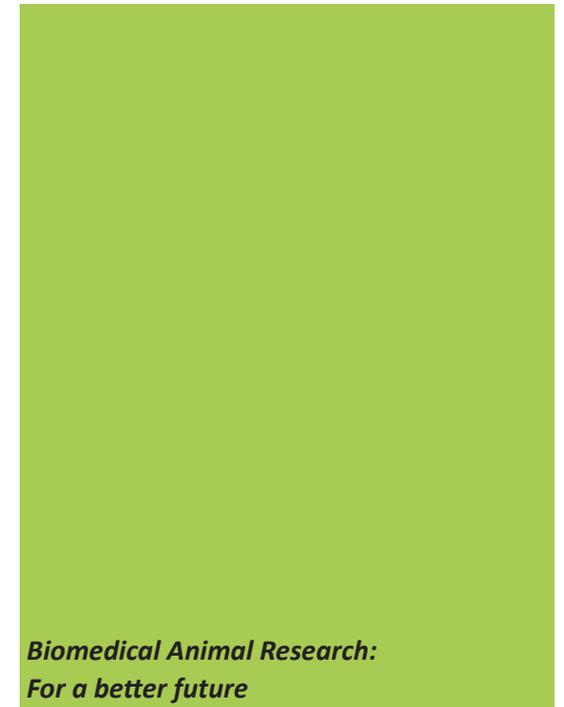
EARA seeks to protect the interests of established organisations that operate research activities within Europe.

For further information and to apply for membership, please visit us on:

www.eara.eu



Collective effort to create favourable conditions in Europe for Animal Research



The European Animal Research Association

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*Biomedical Animal Research:
For a better future*



Background

Developments in biomedicine have allowed us to eradicate life-threatening diseases. From human and animal vaccines to cancer drugs, animal research constitutes a proof-of-concept and allows us to assess drug efficacy and safety at the complete organism level. Examples of medicines developed using animals and their benefits are:

- Penicillin use during WWII saved countless troops' lives and is still widely applied.
- Cholesterol-lowering drugs have halted the progression of atherosclerosis, reducing the incidence of heart disease by up to 40%.
- Identification and purification of insulin has saved the lives of millions of people with type 1 diabetes.

The list of therapeutic compounds developed in the last century is extensive. These advances in medicine required preclinical studies in animal models before being approved for clinical studies in human volunteers and patients.

For now and until the 3Rs framework successfully develops alternative approaches that circumvent the use of animals, we require the sustained use of animal research.

Challenges

Despite the clear benefits and necessity of research using animals, public support cannot be taken for granted. An historic lack of transparency and reliable sources of information from research sectors in addition to strong campaigns by animal right activists have contributed to the undermining of public support.

Organisations using animals for their research are sometimes uneasy about the openness and transparency of their animal activities. Diverse initiatives against animal research have been launched in several European countries. In Italy, research scientists were portrayed as assassins in animal activists' literature revealing personal and contact information. In Germany, neuroscientist Prof. Andreas Kreiter was portrayed as 'not quite human' by an animal activists' full-page newspaper advertisement. These attacks on researchers add up to a long list of animal activists' initiatives whose principal aim is to influence public opinion. However, opinion polls demonstrate that we can maintain public trust so long as we are as open and transparent as possible about activities under the regulatory framework.

While there are European-wide animal rights organisations that produce powerful campaigns and coalitions, thus far animal research has lacked a dedicated organisation to stand up for its achievements and benefits in Europe. Accordingly, the scientific community has recognised that Europe needs a public information platform where citizens and journalists can learn about the facts and benefits of animal research.

European Animal Research Association

The European Animal Research Association (EARA) is supported by organisations using animals in their research. Its purpose is to embrace the animal debate in a collective, international context.

EARA's mission focuses on four major points:

- Better inform and educate audiences on the continued need for, and benefits from, the humane use of animals in biomedical research.
- Create a favourable climate for animal research by influencing EU political decision makers.
- Lead pan-European initiatives to counter pressure on the laboratory animals supply chain and the licence to use laboratory animals in research.
- Support the efforts of animal research facilities to access the goods and services needed to discover and develop new medicines and treatments for humans and animals.

Strategy

The board of EARA ensures good governance of the association and the proper execution of its strategy. EARA's strategy focuses on:

- Facilitating the establishment of local animal research advocacy groups and networks and strengthening those that currently exist.
- Organising pro-active communications and campaigns emphasising the benefits to humans and animals of animal research.
- Informing national and EU decision makers.
- Providing leadership, co-ordination, reputational and communications help to service suppliers along the supply chain.