REPLACEMENT NEWS

November 2020 - Issue 127

Speak Out For Animals

50 1970-2020 YEARS

ANIMAL FREE RESEARCH UK

Animal FREE Challenges

Bust the Myths

Latest News

Next generation of scientists

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Breaking Down The Barriers

I passionately believe that animals should not be used in experiments. If I could wave a magic wand, I would end the suffering of animals in laboratories today. But, sadly it is not that simple. Speaking frankly, the reason animal experiments continue is because we have yet to overcome the barriers that remain.

In 2019, there were 3.4 million experiments on animals in Great Britain - a negligible decrease of just 3.4% from 2018. Although we do cautiously welcome the decrease, unfortunately the use of animals is ingrained within the medical research system, and however frustrating, we recognise we will not persuade people who have built their careers using animals to change overnight. Instead, we work to increase the training and educational opportunities available to early careers researchers so that the next generation of researchers view animal free technologies as the gold standard.

And Merlin is the perfect example of this. Starting by joining us at our very first Summer School during his degree, and following graduation, he joined Professor Lorna Harries at the Animal Free Research UK Centre of Excellence (ARC 2.0) as part of the fight against COVID-19 - all thanks to the generosity and heartfelt commitment of our supporters. Fast forward 6 months and we are excited to announce that Merlin will now be embarking on a 3 year PhD at the University of Exeter to continue his work on COVID-19 and further develop his career in animal free research (see page 14).

By supporting our ARCs and our scientists of the future, you are helping to prove that animal free research is the gold standard which we must all strive for. Over the last 50 years, we have given £10M in grants to fund pioneering human relevant research, and we're currently funding 20 research projects into diseases including COVID-19, cancer, brain tumours, diabetes and dementia.

However, human relevant research is significantly underfunded with just 0.036% of science R&D expenditure in the EU specifically invested into non-animal methods. Even though the UK is a leader in global science, it risks falling behind the rest of the world if innovation is not adopted. So we are calling on the UK Government to join the dots and divert existing resources away from cruel and poorly performing animal research and instead commit to funding emerging human relevant research technologies which are animal free.

We have much to do to overcome the barriers to achieve our collective aim, but we will only meet the challenges by working together. Our positive approach is a horizon of hope for animals, for patients, and for people who care passionately about our collective futures.

We're here to make big changes . We won't stop working until animals are no longer used in research.

Needless to say the last few months have been a strange and challenging time for us all, but I hope that you are safe and well. Let's stick together and support each other. We are certain, brighter times for humans and animals lie ahead.

With grateful thanks,

CARLA OWEN
Chief Executive

If You Could Hear Their Suffering, You'd Speak Out

Every **minute** of every day, **6** animals are used in research in Britain.

In 2019, **3.3 million** animals suffered in research in Britain.

A shockingly large number and variety of animals are still being used in research year after year. These experiments are cruel, hold back breakthroughs, and cause suffering to countless animals. Whilst the numbers are falling, the decline is far too slow – both for the animals languishing in laboratories and for the families waiting for better treatments for devastating diseases.

We need to create a movement for change. By engaging as many people as possible and mobilising support, we can harness hearts and minds to speed up what must inevitably happen one day – an end to animals used in research.

This year more than any other in our lifetime, highlights the fact it's time for an urgent reset in our collective human mindsets and our approach to medical research. The status quo certainly doesn't benefit animals, and there is no longer an argument for it benefitting humans either. The time to end the suffering and to accelerate ethical human relevant research is now.

Already, animal free research is being used in society, including our team at the Animal Replacement Centre (ARC 2.0) at the University of Exeter who are developing a new animal free test for COVID-19, which is only possible due to the generosity of compassionate people like you supporting Animal Free Research UK.

Animal Free Research UK works tirelessly to replace the use of all animals in research, and these techniques are successfully being used, paving the way for the new approach to testing and research that we all want – a kinder science.

However, we have much to do to overcome the barriers that still surround us to be able achieve our collective aim. But we will only meet the challenges by working together. Our positive approach is a horizon of hope for animals, for patients, and for people who care passionately about our collective futures.

It takes just a moment of time to pledge your support – but it is a step in the fight to end the use of animals in research. Take action to save generations of animals suffering in laboratories. Animal free research - let's make it happen!

Visit **www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/pledge** to make your pledge now.

I PLEDGE

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT.
SPEAK OUT FOR ANIMALS.

Bust The Myths

Together with our supporters we've been working for a better, kinder science for 50 years, and over the decades have attempted to dispel the myriad of myths and misconceptions that surround animal free research.

Animal free research is possible, and public opinion is on our side, however many myths are still abound. Here are some key ones to help educate friends and family.

FACT

90% of drugs that pass animal testing fail in humans

90% of drugs which prove promising in animal trials fail in humans, either due to lack of effectiveness or safety concerns. Time, money and animals' lives are being wasted, and with a huge amount of suffering. By pioneering excellence, inspiring and supporting scientists, and influencing change, we can create a world where human diseases are cured faster without animal suffering.

MYTH

We need animal testing to make breakthroughs

There are effective and innovative approaches that don't involve killing animals. Traditional animal research has failed to give us the answers to treat human diseases, so we must significantly increase investment in cutting-edge new approach methodologies such as organ-on-a-chip which are best placed to discover treatments for human diseases, save precious time and lives, and stop the senseless suffering of millions of animals each year.

MYTH

Only mice and rats are used in research

It is not just mice are rats that are used. Dogs, cats, rabbits and monkeys are also used to name a few.

Here are some annual statistics form the Home Office on animal experiments in Great Britain for 2019:

4,227 experiments on dogs
10,188 experiments on rabbits
2,850 experiments on monkeys
131 experiments on cats

FACT

By law, new drugs have to be tested on at least 2 species of animals before they are approved for public use

Unfortunately this is true. Even if a new human relevant treatment has been developed animal free, laws and regulatory agencies worldwide currently require that new drugs and treatments are tested on animals before clinical trials on humans.

We need to work with regulators to ensure that the most effective non-animal research methods can be used to sucessfully progress drugs into human trials, to save precious time and lives, and stop the senseless suffering of millions of animals each year.

WHY NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING CRISPR SHOULD BE THE GAME-CHANGER FOR ANIMALS

In October, two pioneering researchers, Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier and Professor Jennifer Doudna, won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for developing an innovative research technique known as CRISPR/Cas9, better described as 'genetic scissors'. CRISPR/Cas9 has a huge potential in the fight against genetic diseases like sickle cell anaemia and cystic fibrosis, bringing hope to patients.

The scientists 'rewrote the code for life' with their revolutionary gene-editing technology in 2012, and it has since swept through the scientific community, revolutionising basic research and promising ground-breaking medical treatments for cancer and inherited diseases.

The tool is currently being developed as a treatment to modify a patient's stem cells and replace defective genes – the goal being that a patient can have their 'faulty' stem cells removed, edited into a 'normal' condition, and then have them reimplanted.

Undoubtedly, CRISPR is one in a range of exciting next generation research tools that enable scientists to accelerate away from traditional research as part of the increasing take up of new approach methodologies.

Animal Free Research UK's CEO Carla Owen support that CRISPR is not only a game-changer for human health but also a powerful tool to help replace animals in research - if researchers have the courage and imagination to do things differently.

The technology can enable scientists to modify cells extracted from patients in the lab with a high level of confidence that the correct sequence of 'faulty' DNA has been replaced with 'healthy' DNA. This is human-relevant research at its best, delivering effective treatments for humans without animal suffering.

Yet sadly, it is being used to genetically modify animals in an attempt to 'humanise' them by introducing human DNA into their bodies.

Indeed, many researchers are specifically using CRISPR to genetically modify animals. We've seen a huge increase in the number of animals genetically altered since the technique was developed in 2012 – a staggering 1.66 million in Britain alone in 2019.

Scientists can too easily fall into the trap of applying new technology to outdated animal research, rather than creatively exploring how they can transform their thinking in light of new developments.

So rather than wasting precious time, money and animal lives trying to humanise animals in an attempt to treat human diseases, cutting-edge tools like CRISPR and other new approach methodologies should be used to find truly human-relevant solutions.

CRISPR can be used to modify human cells in the laboratory, in cell culture and organ-on-a-chip models to deliver data from human sources that is directly relatable to human diseases.

We urgently need to accelerate towards personalised medicine that is patient-focussed, and not rely on genetically altered animals who can never accurately replicate a human patient in all their rich complexity.

The only solution – both ethically and scientifically – is to invest in human models of disease. That's why Animal Free Research UK is funding a pilot study using CRISPR to create human stem cell disease models for the study of vascular dementia at the University of Manchester.

And it's why we have a new three-year project about to launch at the University of Nottingham that will develop stem cell models to understand heart disease using CRISPR.

Nobel Prize winning CRISPR can be a game-changer for animals as well as for patients – if researchers have the courage and imagination to do things a little differently.

Dr Alpesh Patel
Science Manager
Animal Free Research UK

University of Manchester

Pilot study:

Using CRISPR/Cas9 to create human stem cell disease models that are responsible for the development of dementia, which will help to understand the disease mechanisms and find effective treatment options for humans without animal suffering.

University of Nottingham

PostDoc:

Cardiac fibrosis causes heart failure, a condition affecting 20 million people. Using stem cells, we will make 'mini hearts' to understand cardiac fibrosis and to test medicines, whilst replacing the use of animals.

Animal Free Research Given Voice in Parliament

New Human Relevant Science All-Party Parliamentary accelerates the development and uptake of human relevant sciences in the UK.

The development of human relevant life sciences in the UK had been given a major boost following the formation of a new All-Party Parliamentary Group. The Human Relevant Science APPG will cover a slew of themes including strategic funding to incentivise the development and use of human relevant methods and technologies, and the incorporation of human relevant methods into regulatory guidelines on medicines development.

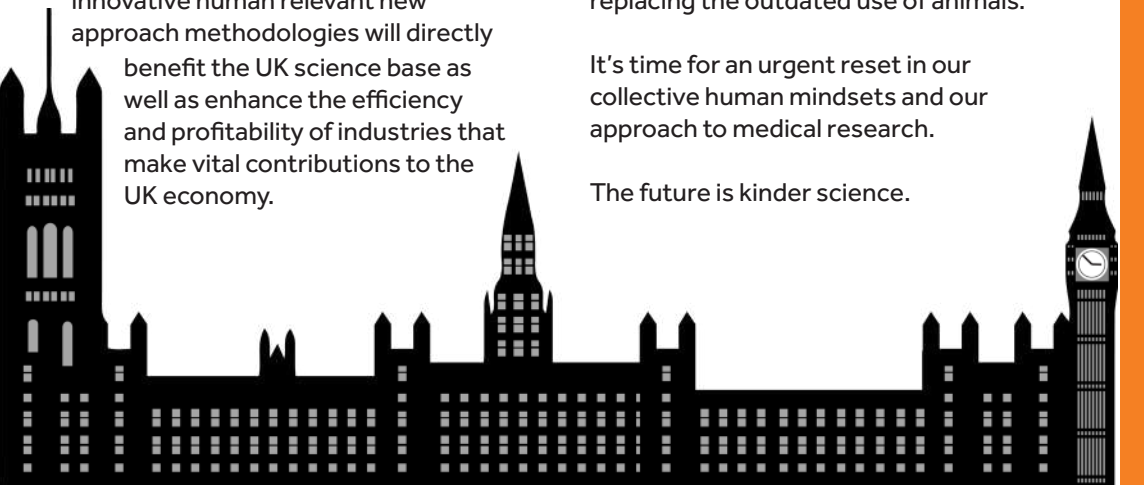
The only such group inside Parliament dedicated to human relevant science, the APPG held its first meeting last month, and heard how replacing poorly performing animal tests with innovative human relevant new approach methodologies will directly benefit the UK science base as well as enhance the efficiency and profitability of industries that make vital contributions to the UK economy.

The APPG's Chair, Labour MP Grahame Morris, said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that the current approach to developing new treatments is simply not fast enough to meet humanity's needs. We urgently need a moonshot to transition to new approach methodologies which promise to deliver safer and more effective medicines, more quickly and at less cost."

Conservative MP Sir David Amess, the APPG's Vice Chair said "As the country seeks a COVID-19 vaccine, this is the perfect time for parliamentarians to take seriously the growing evidence in favour of the pioneering human relevant medical research techniques that are replacing the outdated use of animals."

It's time for an urgent reset in our collective human mindsets and our approach to medical research.

The future is kinder science.



Isobel Hutchinson joins us as Head of Public & Regulatory Affairs

"I am absolutely delighted to have joined Animal Free Research UK as the Head of Public & Regulatory Affairs.

I have always been passionate about helping animals. My career started at an internship at Four Paws UK, where I learned the basics of campaigning and advocacy. For the last seven years, I worked at Animal Aid where I campaigned to end animal experiments, advocated for farmed animals, which led to the role of Director.

I am very excited that Animal Free Research UK is going to be developing its Public Affairs work. It will focus on making sure that the need for human relevant, animal free research gains a prominent place on the political agenda and ultimately results in concrete changes in the law. A key element of the work will be engaging with Ministers, MPs and civil servants and building awareness and momentum for change. I will also be engaging with the scientific community to gain a detailed understanding of the barriers that we need to overcome.

As you will know, MPs' constituents have a powerful voice in bringing issues to their attention, so there will be plenty of new opportunities for you to contribute.

The APPG is a vital step forward in the quest for higher quality, more ethical medical research. As we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on human relevant research is more important than ever. The APPG will provide an important forum for gathering high-quality evidence from scientific and regulatory experts. We are very excited about the contribution that this new APPG will make to transforming medical research.

I really look forward to keeping you updated on progress and letting you know how you can get involved. With your help, I am confident that we will be able to make a huge difference in shifting the focus towards human relevant research that will save animal and human lives."

Isobel Hutchinson

"Achieving a world where human diseases are cured faster without animals is going to take transformational change in the regulations that govern medical research.

I'm delighted Isobel has joined us as we start to work with politicians and decision-makers to influence game-changing policies for animals and people."

Carla Owen, Chief Executive

The Animal FREE Challenges And How We Can Overcome Them

Experiments on animals are ethically unjustified. The use of cutting-edge new approach methodologies such as organ-on-a-chip, are best placed to discover treatments for human diseases, save precious time and lives, and stop the senseless suffering of millions of animals each year.

So given the new technological advancement in labs, just why do animal experiments continue? This is a question we at Animal Free Research UK are asked all too often.

The frank answer is we have yet to overcome the barriers that remain - and we sum these up as the Animal FREE Challenges.

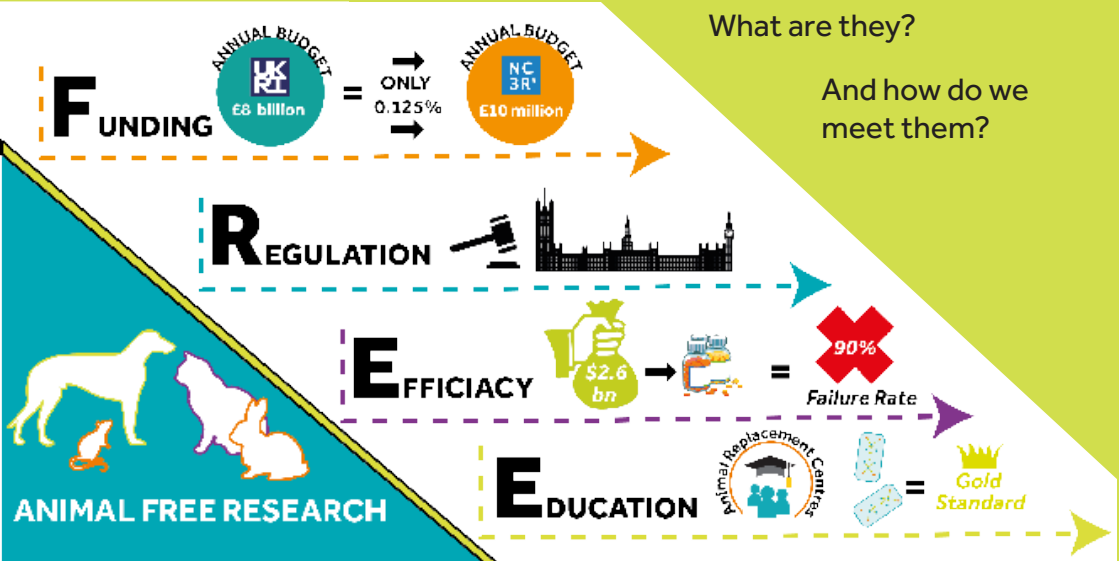
The number of animals used in research in the UK is unacceptable. Last year, 3.4 million experiments were conducted on animals, and 52.7% of all animal experiments took place at universities or medical schools.

Whilst the numbers are falling, the decline is far too slow – both for the animals languishing in laboratories and for the families waiting for better treatments for devastating diseases.

So what do the Animal FREE Challenges entail?

What are they?

And how do we meet them?



ANIMAL FREE CHALLENGES

FUNDING

Human relevant research is significantly underfunded. A 2013 survey estimated that just 0.036% of science R&D expenditure in the EU specifically invested in non-animal methods. As an example, the NC3Rs is one of the key funders of new approach methodologies in the UK and has an annual budget of around £10 million. UK Research and Innovation, which awards grants to researchers and is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, has an annual budget of £8 billion. This means the NC3Rs budget is just 0.125% of UKRI's budget.

REGULATION

Currently it is not possible to develop a new drug from laboratory bench to patient bedside without using animals in safety and efficacy trials. We need to change the law and work with regulators to ensure that the most effective non-animal methodologies can support regulatory decision-making on the progression of drugs into clinical trials.

EFFICACY

Making sure that research or a new treatment has the desired result. Despite animal trials being a regulatory requirement, around 90% of new drugs that prove promising in animals fail in human trials because of either safety or efficacy concerns. It takes around 10 - 12 years to bring a new treatment to market and costs an average of $2.6 billion dollars. We believe human relevant approaches would be much more cost-effective and efficient.

EDUCATION

Animal research is currently viewed as the gold standard by many in the scientific community. Eminent academic careers have been built on the back of using animals. And despite growing evidence that new approach methodologies are cheaper, faster and more effective, animals are still seen as a default medical research 'tool'. So we need to increase the training and educational opportunities available to early careers researchers so that the next generation of researchers see animal free technologies as the gold standard.

We've much to do to overcome the barriers to achieve our collective aim - animal free research. But we will only meet the challenges by working together.

So let's imagine 20 years from now. What kind of world do you envisage in 2040? What kind of environment do you want for your children and grandchildren? A world where animals are still suffering in medical research? Or one where advanced technologies are finding treatments for diseases and animals are free from laboratories?

We know which we choose. We pledge to do everything we can to help to meet and overcome the Animal FREE Challenges. We hope you will too.

A Step Change In The Culture OF Research

An opportunity for young scientist to pursue kinder science.

Research technician Merlin Davies - who attended our first Summer School and was inspired by animal free research – is to embark on a three-year PhD at the University of Exeter.

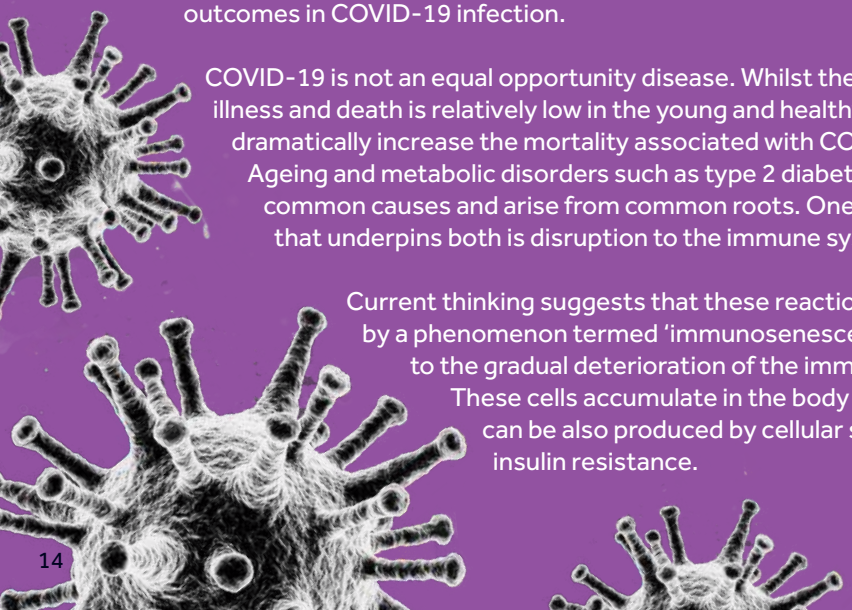
Merlin, a BSc Medical Sciences graduate, has for the past six months been on the COVID-19 front line working as a research technician at our Animal Replacement Centre (ARC 2.0) at the University of Exeter.

Alongside Professor Lorna Harries and her team, he has been optimising a test that could tell users not only whether they are carrying active virus, but also how much.

The enthusiasm and support that Lorna and her team have given Merlin has allowed the young scientist to develop his desired career path of medical research - so much so that the Animal Free Research UK team are excited to announce that he will embark on a PhD from 1 December 2020.

The project

Merlin's PhD will be look at ageing and metabolic disease as risk factors for adverse outcomes in COVID-19 infection.



COVID-19 is not an equal opportunity disease. Whilst the risk of serious illness and death is relatively low in the young and healthy, illness and age dramatically increase the mortality associated with COVID-19 infection. Ageing and metabolic disorders such as type 2 diabetes, share some common causes and arise from common roots. One common factor that underpins both is disruption to the immune system.

Current thinking suggests that these reactions may be linked by a phenomenon termed 'immunosenescence', which refers to the gradual deterioration of the immune system. These cells accumulate in the body during ageing, but can be also produced by cellular stresses such as insulin resistance.

NEXT GENERATION

The outcome

This project will further our understanding of why age and metabolic disease are such significant risk factors for COVID-19 infection, and also suggest new lines of treatment if it is successful. The animal-free techniques to be used are already well established in Professor Lorna's laboratory, giving Merlin the opportunity to learn a wide range of very relevant laboratory skills that will equip him well for his future research career.

Although this project relates specifically to COVID-19, a disease of very high immediate medical need, responses to most other viruses such as flu are similarly compromised in the elderly, so the findings will have a much broader applicability.

The future

This highlights the importance of supporting young scientists to pursue research without using animals, and to give them opportunities to get hands-on laboratory experience. Thanks to your support and generosity, we ran our annual Summer School packed with career-boosting and inspirational workshops to show them the importance of human relevant, non-animal science to tackle human diseases.

Some words from Merlin...

"This may sound cheesy, but this is genuinely my dream job. Being at the forefront of novel science, working to improve both human and animal lives, has been my goal for the past few years.

My first experience of research was with Professor Lorna Harries, and through her enthusiasm and direction I realised how perfect this career is for me. From attending Animal Free Research UK's first ever Summer School as a student, to now working on COVID-19 research has taken me by surprise and is of course pertinent to our current lives, which makes it even more exciting to think I get to work with leading scientists to help contribute to solutions.

The generous contributions of an anonymous donor and Animal Free Research UK, mean I get the chance to work with truly inspiring researchers to build on this. The work we have planned should be very interesting. For now I can only thank all the generous supporters, colleagues, friends and my motivating family who helped me reach this position. Now comes the real work. We will keep you all updated!"

The Next Generation of Superheroes

Part of our mission at Animal Free Research UK is to inspire and support scientists. We want to train a new generation of scientists who are excited to develop animal free techniques and create a step change in the culture of research.

Our Summer Student Programme and Summer Schools give early career scientists valuable laboratory experience in animal free medical research. It helps to show them the importance of human-relevant, non-animal science in tackling human diseases.

Supporting our scientists of the future to develop their career entirely without animal experiments and make real breakthroughs in medical research will create long-lasting change for both people and animals.

Meet one of our next generation of animal free scientists.

Samantha Lindsay
Summer Student 2019
BSc Biomedical Science
University of Hull

Did you always want to get into science as a field of study and work?

I have always been drawn to science, starting with a fascination with neurology and psychology. I was mostly intrigued by the complexity of medicine and the broader diagnostic process, which led me to an Institute of Biomedical Science accredited degree in biomedical science, where I aim to explore clinical science further.

Since starting my degree, my excitement for science has evolved into a new found interest in virology, microbiology and histology, as I am able to delve deeper into the diagnostic process of many human diseases.

How did you first get involved with Animal Free Research UK?

Understanding the process of wound healing is significant in many areas of medicine including diabetes, obesity, cancer, trauma and burns. Chronic wounds are one of the major causes of patient morbidity and distress, simultaneously costing the NHS billions of pounds each year. In order to reduce this burden on both the patient and the economy, a new way of testing treatments for wounds is necessary, for quick and efficient treatment before they develop into life threatening chronic infections, leading to my collaboration with Animal Free Research UK to develop a novel wound and infection model.

The aim of this model was to provide a more transferable clinical platform designed specifically for testing the effectiveness of novel wound healing therapeutics, which was made achievable through eliminating the use of animals in my research.

Animal Free Research UK provided an invaluable opportunity for me to explore the wound healing process in greater detail, by using human derived raw materials, ultimately eradicating the unjust waste of animal lives, but also stepping forward into the future of advanced wound healing research that will progress further without the use of animals.

You recently graduated with a first class honours degree in bio medical science (BSc) – congratulations! Tell us about your experience during your degree.

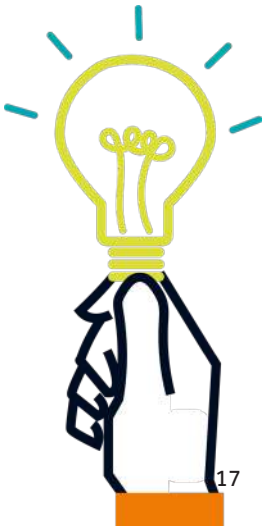
Graduating with a first-class degree, with no physical graduation ceremony and in the middle of a global pandemic, was unquestionably an unusual way to end my 3 years as an undergrad! Despite this, I have thoroughly enjoyed my university experience, the people I met, the lessons I learned and the experience I gained as a scientist. I also feel incredibly proud to have worked alongside leading virologists and microbiologists and taken part in exciting new research projects across academic institutes and with Animal Free Research UK.

The most exciting part of my degree was being able to work in teams to 'solve' clinical case studies within the lab. By completing case study reports and leading investigative practical work, brought the excitement to writing a lab report! It was like solving a puzzle, by using snippets of information learned in a variety of lectures, to diagnose a patient sample.

Studying biomedical science has instilled my passion for clinical research and an eagerness to explore the huge variety of industries science has to offer.

What advice would you give someone who wants to go into animal free research?

First, you have chosen the right path for research! Moving away from animals in biomedical science is going to make the future of clinical research far more transferable to human beings, from diagnosing disease to developing vaccines. It is essential that scientific journals recognise this shift in scientific knowledge and push for more transferable research methods.



FABULOUS Fundraisers

Once again, from everyone here are Animal Free Research UK, we want to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters. We are overwhelmed by your incredible acts of generosity and kindness from. You enable us to continue our fight towards a kinder science. You are the lifeblood of animal free research, and we simply wouldn't be here without you.

Thank you for your abundance of compassion. United we can create a world where human diseases are cured faster without animal suffering.

Jane Warner's brave shave

We would like to say a huge thank you to our supporter Jane Warner who, inspired by her brother's cancer diagnosis, choose to shave her head to raise money for Animal Free Research UK.

Jane and her fabulous friends and family raised an amazing **£443** – congratulations!

Of course, it was a shame to lose those fabulously pink, purple and blue locks but your bravery and the generosity of your supporters is inspiring.

You are helping to fund work that proves animals do not need to be harmed in the name of medical research.

Thank you so much Jane – you are an inspiration!

Bude Group Smashes £30,000 Target!

STEPH

"Well what a strange year it continues to be. No face to face fundraising but through sheer determination the Bude group has managed to **smash our 5 year £30,000 target 2 months early** and are now heading speedily towards £30,500!

For all other groups out there I can recommend the following to help boost the pot when in lock down:

- Set up a JustGiving.com Page and keep plugging it. Encourage people to 'do' a challenge for you and pop the funds in there. We had a large anonymous donation which got us to target quicker than we thought. People appreciate how hard you are trying during the pandemic and it is humbling how many £5 and £10 donations I have been given in passing purely because people have seen my countless posts telling everyone we are still here working hard for the charity!
- Sign up to Recycling for Good Causes at www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org and ask everyone to dig out their unwanted items. This works really well and is simple to do. We received £60.90 for our first sack which was fabulous.
- Encourage friends to sell their unwanted jigsaws (always popular) and other items for you on selling sites or amongst their friends and donate the proceeds.
- Good at cake baking or card making? Why not use this to raise money. One of our members had a successful vegan chocolate cake draw and is now making us a Christmas cake to do the same in December. She arranged this amongst her friends and then donated the money raised.

In summer 2021 we will hopefully be back bigger and better doing carnival floats and all our usual crazy events! 2020 has been a tough year for all charities but it has shown us that supporters can can rise to the challenge and by keeping a strong online presence, not only just raise funds but also keep the work of the charity in the forefront of people's minds.

We will not stop until all animal testing has stopped, it's really that simple."

Steph
Bude Community Ambassador

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways you can help raise funds for us – and many don't even cost you a penny!

giftaid it

Don't forget to add GiftAid to make your donations go even further! If you are a UK taxpayer, we will receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated!

amazon smile

Did you know one of the easiest ways to support us is by shopping on Amazon Smile - all you need to do is select us as your charity of choice and then Amazon will donate every time you shop! Head over to smile.amazon.co.uk

Make your birthday even more meaningful and set up a Facebook birthday fundraiser. An easy way to ask your Facebook friends to donate to your chosen charity leading up to your birthday as an alternative gift.

easyfundraising feel good shopping

Support us when you shop online! With over 4,000 retailers available, you can turn your everyday online shopping into donations for us by registering for free with EasyFundraising.

SUPPORTER CORNER

We have put together some FAQs which will hopefully help with any questions you may have.

How can I make a donation?
There are many ways that you can make a donation! You can donate online via our website, over the phone or send in a cheque with the enclosed donation form and return envelope - see page 2 of the newsletter for all of our contact details.

Am I eligible to claim GiftAid?
If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim Gift Aid on your behalf which will increase the value of your donation at no extra cost to you. For every pound you give, we will receive an extra 25p!

You can find more information about Gift Aid on page 24.

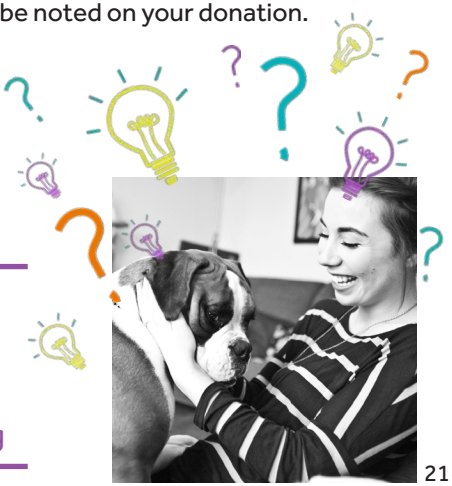
How can I amend details of my standing order donation?
For any amendments or changes you want to make to your standing order donation, you will need to do this directly with your bank. We are unable to change any details from our side.

How is my donation used?
For every £1 you give, 93p will support charitable activities. The remaining 7p will generate new funds for animal free research.

How do I update you with my new address or contact details?
You can update us either by calling us on 0208 054 9700 or by emailing your details to hello@animalfreeresearchuk.org

I have some old mobile phones, ink catridges and other items that I would like to recycle for charity - do you accept these?
Unfortunately we cannot accept these directly, however you can visit websites such as **www.recycle4charity.co.uk** or **www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org** for advice on what to do.

How do I make my donation go to a specific project or area of research that you are funding?
When you make you donation via our website, over the phone or by cheque, please just let us know if you want your donation to go to a specific project or area of research we are funding and that will be noted on your donation.



If have any other questions,
then you can ask Jess our
Supporter Engagement Officer!

EMAIL: hello@animalfreeresearchuk.org

A Gift For The Future

Some words of advice from Brian James, Legacy Consultant

Animal Free Research UK is offering a free will writing and estate administration service to ensure your wishes are fulfilled and your estate efficiently and securely managed.*

Hardly a day goes by without an email or telephone call offering a too-good-to-be-true opportunity.

Sadly, will writing and estate management are increasingly among the questionable offerings. The caller offers to write wills or administrate estates at bargain prices – but there is the dreaded catch which can result in uncontrollable fees for a second-rate service.

A will is one of the most important legal documents anyone will sign, handing control of all their assets to another. So it is paramount that you know your will has been properly drafted, that it provides for your wishes to be implemented at reasonable cost, and that your assets are realised at full value.

In our view this can only be done by a solicitor with the necessary expertise. Most reasonably sized firms of solicitors now have specialist departments dealing with will drafting and estate administration, and crucially adhere to The Law Society's strict regulations.

We at Animal Free Research UK feel strongly that the receipt of a legacy is a two-way street, and we firmly believe we have a duty to ensure your will is properly drafted and your estate efficiently administered by a specialist solicitor.

So we offer a free will writing and estate administration service* to ensure your wishes are fulfilled and your estate efficiently and securely managed.

Why do we offer this? We do so in the first instance to say thank you for your generous and loyal support. And because it is in our interest that your estate is properly administered at reasonable cost.

Legacy gifts are vitally importance to us and, over our 50 years, they have made up a significant portion of our income. This has enabled us to be able to fund pioneering animal free research and save millions of animals from suffering. Every project we fund is moving us along to a time where animals are no longer used in medical research. And we cannot do this without you. We receive no government funding and rely of the generosity of supporters like you so that we can continue our work to free animals from laboratories for good.

*Terms & Conditions apply - please contact us for more information.

PROTECT THE FUTURE

A gift in your will, large or small, will truly make a difference to us.

Using a trusted friend to administer your estate was often a good and practical solution to ensure your will was to be executed as you wished. But the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic can create greater risks. A sudden passing occurring during the administration process can cause problems sorting out assets from that part of the deceased's estate if the allocated monies are not held in a clearly designated estate account.

In addition, over recent years reports of families, friends and even carers not fulfilling their loved one's wishes have sadly become more common.

Courts often award an unsuccessful claimant their legal costs out of the estate. Charity legatees are under a statutory obligation to defend such claims and it is always best to use specialist solicitors.

For charities defending such a claim, the total legal costs to charities is often upwards of £60,000.

To help avoid your wishes not being carried out, it is important to work with a solicitor who takes time to understand your reasons for your gifts, and who reviews your decisions at the time you sign your will – and as crucially, keeps all the notes made on file.
Because details of those discussions can help defend your wishes later.

Wills drafted by post or the internet are the most difficult to defend, and revolves around proving the intent of the donor.

Brian James
Legacy Consultant

If you wish to use or know more about Animal Free Research UK's will writing and estate administration services, please contact us:

Email: legacies@animalfreeresearchuk.org
Call: 020 8054 9700
Visit: www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/leave-a-legacy

MAKE YOUR DONATION GO FURTHER

Your donations are already life-changing for animals and people, but you can make them go even further through Gift Aid.

By saying "Yes" to Gift Aid you can help even more animals - at no extra cost to you.

The Gift Aid scheme allows charities to reclaim tax on donations made by UK taxpayers from HM Revenue and Customs. This means that for every £1 you donate to us we will receive £1.25 in total, without costing you any extra. In the last 12 months, supporters have helped Animal Free Research UK raise nearly £40,000 through Gift Aid alone. It's a really simple and effective way to give.

FAQs

Am I eligible to claim GiftAid?
If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim Gift Aid on your behalf which will increase the value of your donation at no extra cost to you. For every pound you give, we will receive an extra 25p!

What period will my Gift Aid declaration cover?
It will cover your future donations and donations you have made for the past 4 years.

What if my circumstances change?
If you stop paying tax, your name or address changes, or if you were previously not able to Gift Aid and would now like to, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing us at hello@animalfreeresearchuk.org or call us on 020 8054 9700.

Can I Gift Aid my donations if I'm a pensioner?
If you are paying tax on a private pension plan or a savings account, or capital gains tax, you can still Gift Aid if you have paid enough tax during the tax year to cover the amount that charities will claim on all your donations in that year.

What if I'm self-employed?
As long as you have paid enough tax during the tax year to cover the amount that charities will claim on all your donations in that year, you can claim Gift Aid.