

REPLACEMENT NEWS

May 2021- Issue 129



The ARCs
Modernising medical research
Engaging Policy Makers
Next generation of scientists

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A BETTER FUTURE

Every minute of every day, 6 animals are used in research in the UK. This is unacceptable. We at Animal Free Research UK are passionate about accelerating the end of animal use in research.

We want to create change in the science community so that animal free research is considered the gold standard for medical research worldwide, which will save both human and animal lives.

We're funding a new generation of animal free scientists who work at our Animal Replacement Centres of Excellence (ARCs) and are pushing research boundaries towards a cure for major diseases.

Dr Gehad Youssef is a perfect example of this. Thanks to the generosity and heartfelt commitment of our supporters, the ARC at Queen Mary University London has given him access to a wide range of cutting-edge, human relevant technologies to accelerate the development of more accurate human cancer methodologies and reduce the number of animals used in cancer research. These new approaches are revolutionising medical research and ultimately saving human and animal lives (page 4).

We understand hearts and minds will not change overnight. And as much as we want the senseless cruelty to stop right now, we do have a unique opportunity to tear up the medical research rule book.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced a reappraisal of what is truly necessary to deliver safe and effective health solutions as quickly as possible. Animal free research was pivotal in bringing vaccines on stream after decision-makers agreed human trials could be conducted in parallel with and sometimes ahead of animal tests.

It is now time for a big push.

Although we are still facing numerous barriers, this is an exciting time. We are launching a new report on Modernising Medical Research and we'll be campaigning for a new government function dedicated to championing the replacement of animals in research with human relevant techniques (page 10).

After being forced to cancel last year, we re-launched our 2021 Summer Student Programme which will enable the next wave of early career scientists to gain valuable experience and kick start their animal free research careers.

There can be a better future for us and for the animals. Together, we can create a world where human diseases are cured faster without animal suffering.

With grateful thanks,



CARLA OWEN
 Chief Executive



ANIMAL REPLACEMENT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

STRENGTHENING OUR PRESENCE IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO ANIMAL FREE RESEARCH

In October 2016, Animal Free Research UK established a 5-year, £1 Million joint venture with the Blizard Institute, part of Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). The Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence (ARC 1.0) was established to help find animal free research solutions for skin, breast and prostate cancer.

Directed by Professor Mike Philpott, from the Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research at QMUL, the ARC directly funds a small number of scientists making big breakthroughs, among them Dr Adrian Biddle, Dr Gehad Youssef and Dr Muhammed Rahman. The ARC has created a unique focal point which uses cutting edge scientific research to accelerate the development of human relevant approaches to address human diseases and help avoid the use of animals in cancer research.

The ARC aims to further validate the most robust and applicable non-animal research methods for human cancer, addressing the limitations of both poorly performing cell-based approaches and animal use. The over-dependence on mice in particular has slowed progress in cancer research and can provide misleading data.

It is here at the ARC where the evidence for accelerating the end of

animal use in medical research is being emphatically put to the point where ending the practice is fast becoming an open and shut case.

“Our work at the ARC has a significant impact in reducing the use of animals in cancer research.”

Prof Mike Philpott

To achieve these goals the ARC has benefitted greatly by being located within the Blizard Institute. It is recognised as a world class medical research institute, ranked among the top 5 in the UK for research output with 90% of research output judged world-leading. This means that researchers at the ARC have access to a wide range of groundbreaking scientific technologies to accelerate the development of more accurate human cancer research methods. This will speed up the replacement of animals with global scale impacts and take-up of non-animal approaches.

The ARC shows what a difference a gift in your will can be. Our investment was made possible by an incredibly generous legacy from the Stross family, who were long term, committed supporters of Animal Free Research UK.



BREAKTHROUGH IN HUMAN-RELEVANT CANCER RESEARCH

Dr Adrian Biddle and Dr Gehad Youssef are investigating why some tumor stem cells survive the initial treatment at the original site and spread to other parts of the body creating secondary sites of growth. This process is known as metastasis.

One of the big unknowns in cancer biology is how this cell migration occurs. We don't see it happening in our bodies - but sadly once it happens, it is often fatal.

Conventionally the study of metastasis has been considered possible only in mice despite the fundamental biological differences between them and humans.

Adrian and Gehad's research has led to major scientific innovation with the development of a 3D cancer model using human cancer cells. They then used this to build a "metastasis-on-a-chip" device which allows the migration of the cancerous cells, mimicking the process in a human body.

Using these techniques has given them a better understanding of how and why some cancerous cells break out of the primary tumour and spread to other parts of the body. It also allows for initial testing of new approaches and potential treatment to prevent metastasis from happening altogether.



MEET THE TEAM



Professor Mike Philpott



Dr Adrian Biddle



Dr Gehad Youssef



Dr Muhammed Rahman

TRAIL BLAZING ARC RESEARCHER SECURES MAJOR FUNDING

As a direct result of the work carried out in the ARC and funded by generous supporters like you, Adrian has been awarded a £680,000 grant from the Medical Research Council (MRC) to continue his pioneering research into cancer.

The funding award was a major achievement – made more so because human relevant research is severely underfunded in the UK. A 2013 survey estimated that only 0.036% of science Research and Development (R&D) expenditure in the UK is specifically invested in non-animal methods.

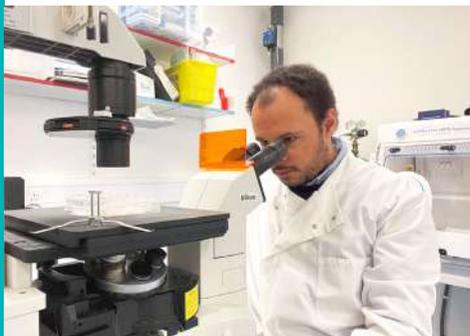
Securing such large grant from a traditional research funding source also demonstrates how our ARCs are helping other researchers and

scientists to understand that animal free approaches drive real results, unlocking more funding opportunities in the future.

A REVOLUTION IN THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

Gehad and Adrian's research did not stop with the "metastasis-on-a-chip", as they actually pushed the boundaries further by developing a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) machine learning. This allows recognition of differences in human cancer cell samples and accurately predicts the likelihood that specific cells will spread.

Because of this innovative machine learning approach, Gehad received two prestigious awards at leading conference in Japan



Dr Gehad Youssef

In June 2021, Gehad will take up another post-doctoral research post in an artificial intelligence laboratory at the University of Cambridge, to continue research in this area and to explore new treatments through re-purposing existing drugs. This will have a significant impact in avoiding animal experiments in the search of new cancer treatments.



Dr Adrian Biddle

A MYRIAD OF SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

In addition to Gehad, the ARC has also supported the work of another postdoctoral researcher, Dr Muhammad Rahman. Muhammad has worked on several projects and achieved important scientific breakthroughs including identifying a new cell type in head and neck cancer which may increase the likelihood of tumours to spread and resist treatment. This exciting discovery could lead to the development of new therapies which target these cells and could help to improve outcomes for cancer patients.

Muhammad has also continued to focus on developing models of human skin cancer. Using these human relevant models, he has discovered why cancer cells develop resistance to standard chemotherapy, and also a potential explanation for the increased incidence of head and neck cancer in patients suffering from a rare genetic disorder called Fanconi Anaemia.

ARC 2.0 - A new generation of animal free researchers.

In November 2019, three years after the first ARC was established,

we co-created the second Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence (ARC 2.0), led by Professor Lorna Harries at the University of Exeter. It supports fledgling scientists to pursue animal free research and go on to inspire and mentor other young scientists in animal free techniques.

THE FUTURE

Over the last 50 years many human relevant approaches have been introduced into the scientific world, such as organ-on-a-chip technology and advanced computer models, which are best placed to study human diseases without harming animals.

Unfortunately, the use of animals in medical research is entrenched and institutionalised, with many researchers still viewing animal experiments as the gold standard.

However, increasing numbers of researchers are recognising the scientific limitations of animal testing. Initiatives like the ARCs are supporting the development and implementation of human relevant approaches both by funding animal free research and supporting the next generation of scientists who are pushing research boundaries towards a cure for major diseases.

The ARCs are giving the opportunity for a new commitment to develop innovative research technologies which are human relevant and animal free.



They are the real hope for a future where treatments can be delivered faster to save humans and animals.

Our ARC scientists are pioneers in animal free research. Their achievements are also those of committed supporters like you who are helping to prove that animal free research is the gold standard.

The ARCs are a win-win-win for humans, animals and research. They establish the foundations to train and grow expertise and knowledge of animal free techniques, which can deliver more effective treatments for people. The ARCs are playing a pivotal role in realising a future where humane, effective animal free research is the norm. A future where people will find it difficult to believe that animals were ever used as laboratory 'tools'. A better, kinder future.

THERE IS A BETTER FUTURE FOR HUMANS AND FOR ANIMALS.



UPDATES FROM ARC 2.0

The Animal Replacement Centre (ARC 2.0) at the University of Exeter supports a new generation of scientists who are excited to develop animal free techniques and create a step change in the culture of research, allowing us to eventually end the use of animals in research.

Here are some updates from 2 PhD students currently working at ARC 2.0.

MERLIN DAVIES

Ageing and metabolic disease as risk factors for adverse outcomes in COVID-19 infection

For the first six months of the pandemic, Merlin Davies was on the COVID-19 front line working as a research technician on the Animal Free Research UK funded project at ARC 2.0

Following the kind support of a charitable donor, we were able to convert the COVID-19 project to a 3-year PhD. Merlin transitioned from technician to PhD student in December 2020 to continue his animal free research into the effects of COVID-19 in people with pre-existing conditions.

Merlin and the team optimised an animal free COVID-19 antigen test that could tell users not only whether they are carrying active virus, but also how much. He is now looking at how

long people remain infectious, and how the amount of infectious virus is related to how severely someone is affected.

Since May 2020, Merlin has managed to test and collect samples directly from 250 people, to see if they are carrying infectious virus, and produced an accurate measurement of viral load (how much active virus a person is carrying) for each.

So far, the team has identified that the amount of infectious virus does seem to correlate with how severely someone is affected, and that we can see levels of active virus start to drop off well before the conventional tests turn negative. Merlin is in the process of writing this exciting data up for publication at the moment.

COVID-19 is an ageing-related disease: over 80% of the people who have sadly died from infection are over 70 years old. In his PhD, Merlin will now look at whether any of the chemicals the team have identified can improve the ability of human cells to mount a good antibody and T cell response to viral infection, perhaps forming the basis for a new treatment to help people recover from the virus.

"We should be working in the kindest and most effective way possible"

LAURA BRAMWELL

Researching how existing drugs can stop human cells from ageing

Ageing is the biggest risk factor for the most common, chronic diseases in humans, such as dementia, heart disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes.

PhD student Laura is part of the animal free research team led by Professor Lorna Harris at the Animal Replacement Centre (ARC 2.0) at the University of Exeter, studying how existing drugs can stop human cells from ageing.

Laura is in her second year at ARC 2.0. In past work, Laura and her team have discovered that some chemicals can reset the ageing clock in old cells. She is working on a study to identify chemicals that influence this process, and repurpose them to treat ageing-related diseases ('new jobs for old drugs!').

Laura has made excellent progress over the past year, despite lockdown. She has successfully passed her MPhil



PhD student Laura Bramwell and Professor Lorna Harris

to PhD transfer examination and has written a review paper that was published at the end of last year.

Having successfully completed the initial screening of a high volume of data from testing potential new treatments for ageing-related disease, Laura is now prioritising the best performing data sets of these for detailed follow up.



Here is Laura wearing her Animal Free Research UK supporter-funded lab coat next to a big stack of PCR plates. These plates represent the culmination of the first year of Laura's PhD and what your generous donations are helping to achieve. There are around 50 plates in the photo above and each plate has 384 wells. Each well holds an individual experiment to see the effects of a drug on cellular ageing. Most importantly, each of these wells will allow the replacement of animals.

WE'RE PUTTING ANIMAL FREE RESEARCH ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA



Developing cutting-edge alternatives to replace the use of animals in medical research is a crucial part of achieving our mission. That's why we fund scientists across Britain to carry out their inspirational work without harming a single animal.

But we also need political action to drive down the number of animals used in research and replace them completely with human relevant methods. Because each year millions of animals continue to suffer in experiments despite the advances being made in the field of animal free science.

We at Animal Free Research UK have been working tirelessly to get this issue onto the political agenda. As part of our strategy, we are active members of the Alliance for Human Relevant Science, of which we are also founding members. This united front

of like-minded charities, companies and individuals has been highly effective at influencing strong, cross-party support for replacing animals with human relevant science.

Our cause needs attention at the highest levels of government, so we are building up a strong case for action by the politicians who have the power to end animal research.

Among our recent public affairs actions was an Early Day Motion (page 13), and in February, we commissioned a YouGov poll (page 14), which showed strong public support for animal free research.

Our next step is to highlight to the UK Government the progressive initiatives being undertaken around the world to accelerate the replacement of animals. There are many examples of positive action that the UK could learn from.

Netherlands:

The Dutch government has embraced the need for animal free innovation and brought together representatives from government, industry, academia and the third sector. It has organised collaborations such as 'helpathons' to work out how to conduct research without animals.

USA:

US government agencies are making significant progress in replacing animals in toxicity testing. The Environmental Protection Agency has committed to stop funding and requesting tests on mammals by 2035 and published a detailed workplan setting out how this will be achieved.

Denmark:

Denmark has given animal welfare professionals a voice in the regulation of animal research. The Council that assesses applications to perform animal experiments includes members that have been selected after consultation with animal welfare organisations.

Switzerland:

In early 2021 Switzerland's Federal Council announced a National Research Programme that includes a focus on reducing the use of animals in research. Including this need as part of a National Research Programme establishes this issue as a matter of national importance.

We used this evidence to produce a new report titled **Modernising Medical Research: how Britain can become a global leader in animal free science**. This outlines the scientific, ethical and economic case for replacing animals, as well as how this approach would support the Government's ambition of becoming a 'science superpower'. It sets out policy actions that the Government should take.

A key recommendation is to set up a dedicated department or ministerial position to accelerate the replacement of animals with high-tech alternatives. This new function could undertake initiatives such as producing a roadmap and detailed workplans; facilitating collaboration between different stakeholders; influencing international regulatory guidelines and providing practical support and training for scientists. The launch of the new report will be the first step in our campaign to Modernise Medical Research, which will call for a new department, ministerial position or other function dedicated to accelerating the

replacement of animals in research with human relevant techniques.

The new campaign will be focused especially on the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Office, since it is the Prime Minister who has the ability to set up new departments or ministerial positions.

We will be launching the campaign in late May and hope you will feel inspired to get involved. Please visit our website to see details of our online action which will enable you to contact your MP and ask them to write to the Prime Minister, urging him to take decisive action to modernise medical research.

animalfreeresearch.org/modernise



A VITAL STEP IN SAVING ANIMALS FROM LABORATORIES

With your help, we are fighting for regulatory change that will end the use of animals in laboratories. In the meantime, the lives of many animals could be saved if existing laws were properly followed and enforced.

The law on animal experiments in the UK – the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 – clearly states that ‘scientifically satisfactory’ non-animal methods must be used wherever possible, instead of animal experiments. This means that researchers must actively look for non-animal research methods before applying to conduct experiments on animals.

Last December the Home Office published information on the licences for animal experiments that were granted during the first half of 2020. Tragically, this showed 235 new licences were granted to researchers, allowing them to carry out experiments on over 5.5 million animals over the next five years.

Since that announcement, a Parliamentary Question to the Home Office revealed the following responses:

From January to December 2020, no animal experiment has been refused permission

Between July and December 2020, the Home Office granted 235 new project licenses to researchers to carry out animal experiments.

When the Home Office was asked to describe what steps it has taken to ensure criteria for granting licenses are indeed applied in favour of more innovative alternatives than animal use, the response received indicated no active effort has been made to avoid animal use, little more than a tick box exercise as we feared.

This is why we are asking you to please write to your MP and ask them to ensure that the legal requirement to use non-animal methods wherever possible is being enforced.

Using our quick and easy tool, you can find and message your MP and ask them to take action in just a couple of minutes.

animalfreeresearchuk.org/takeaction

Ensuring that the existing law is properly enforced is a vital step in saving animals from laboratories.

EDM 256 SURPASSES 100 MP SIGNATURES

In the last edition of Replacement News, we reported how an Early Day Motion (EDM) in support of animal free science had been signed by 85 MPs. We are very happy to announce that the EDM has now been signed by over 100 MPs, so we are extremely grateful to everyone who took the time to contact their MP about this issue.

EDM 256 calls on the Government to provide funding, infrastructure, and education in order to make the UK a global leader in animal free science. It has been signed by representatives from all the major political parties, showing strong support for a kinder and more modern approach to science.

While EDMs do not directly bring about policy change, they are an invaluable way to demonstrate political support on a particular topic. Securing 100 signatures makes it clear that MPs from across the political spectrum feel strongly about the need to replace animals with cutting-edge, human relevant techniques. It is also extremely useful for us to know which MPs are supportive of human relevant science. This enables us to work with them in the future as we call on the Government to modernise medical research.

Calling on MPs to sign the EDM was part of our work with the Alliance for



Human Relevant Science, which has also supported the formation of an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). The APPG for Human Relevant Science held its second meeting in February, with presentations by Professor Lorna Harries from the University of Exeter, Dr David Jones from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Professor Jon Heylings from the Dermal Technology Laboratory.

The APPG will hold its next meeting in May 2021 and is continuing to gather powerful evidence about the need for change to funding and regulations to promote the development and uptake of high-tech alternatives to animals. Towards the end of the year, the APPG will report on the evidence it has gathered so far and put forward recommendations about how the Government can take action to transform medical research for the benefit of people and animals.



Isobel Hutchinson
Head of Public & Regulatory Affairs

CLEAR MAJORITY OF BRITONS WANT END TO ANIMAL TESTING

Over two-thirds of Britons – 68% – want an end to animal experiments in medical research in UK labs, a new poll reveals. The YouGov survey, carried out on behalf of Animal Free Research UK, showed strong public support for ending animal experiments and replacing them with non-animal alternatives.

The poll, which surveyed 1,751 adults in Britain during 22-23 February 2021, also showed:

- 60% of respondents back extra Government spending on developing non-animal alternatives.

- 70% of respondents support animal experiments in medical research being phased out by 2040.

The poll clearly shows that the British public want an end to outdated, unethical, costly and ineffective research that sees countless animals suffer. Instead, as the poll shows, the public wants the government to provide meaningful investment to make medical research humane and fit for the 21st Century.

Animal Free Research UK is calling on the Government to take meaningful action to transition exclusively to human relevant research, which is faster, cheaper and without cruelty. Government should take heed of the



public's desire to modernise archaic laws and practices that enshrine cruelty in medical research.

At Animal Free Research UK, we acknowledge providing the supportive infrastructure, funding, education and training, and regulations that enables animal free human-relevant research cannot be achieved overnight. As our next step towards ending all animal testing, we are working for medicines to be developed without using any animals by 2040.

As much as we want animal experiments to end today, we're realistic and understand change takes time. But as the rush for a COVID-19 vaccine proved, more accurate, quicker and cheaper ways of compiling crucial medical research data exist. The Government now has the backing of the British public to make the increased investment required to accelerate human relevant life sciences and cure diseases faster. This will save the lives of humans and animals as well as boosting the UK economy.

GLOBAL REPLACEMENT NEWS

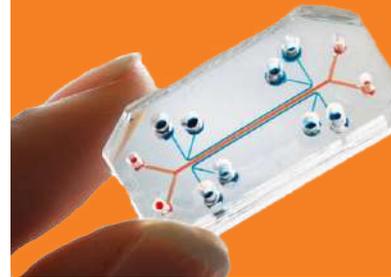


Organ-on-a-chip could personalise sickle cell treatment

Researchers at Texas D&M university have developed an organ-on-a-chip that could offer a more personalised approach to treating sickle cell disease - a form of anemia caused by an anomalous shape of red blood cells.

Their research is able to differentiate a very severe sickle cell patient from very mild patients. Moving forward, they will be able to assess more patients using their organ-on-a-chip technology and categorize them into different groups based on symptoms.

The findings indicate that organs-on-a-chip could lead to patient-centric, personalized treatment, improving how clinicians approach this and other cardiovascular diseases.



'Mini-brains' could help accelerate drug studies

A team of scientists and engineers from HEPIA and the Wyss Centre in Switzerland have developed a high-content imaging technique for 3D brain in vitro spheroid models, revealing the detailed internal anatomy of 'mini brains' for the first time.

'Mini-brains' are pin-head sized collections of several different types of human brain cell. They are used as a tool, allowing scientists to learn about how the brain develops, study disease and test new medicines. Personalized 'mini-brains' can be grown from stem cells generated from a sample of human hair or skin and could shed light on how brain disease progresses in an individual and how this person may respond to drugs.

Human 'mini-brains' have a life span of more than a year and, with their new ability to visualize them in more detail, the team envisions benefits including reducing animal testing.

The new approach could also enable imaging of large numbers of 'mini-brains', making it suitable for high-volume data screening for drug discovery or toxicity testing. It is reproducible and cost-effective and could potentially help accelerate personalised medicine studies.

2021 SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAMME

After having postponed our summer activities in 2020, this year we are excited to resume our sought-after Summer Student Programme, which started with recruitment in March.

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

Our talented students spend their summer developing animal free research techniques to study a wide range of illnesses. From Alzheimer's to cancer and heart disease, our Summer Students advance society's understanding of human health and help save animals from being used in these areas of research.

Students have found these projects influence their career decisions and encourage them to pursue an animal free career. Former summer student, Zachary McNeill, recently had data from his project published as part of the Annual International Conference of the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBC). He also

presented this data at the Advances in Cell and Tissue Culture Conference. By supporting early career scientists through our Summer Student Programme, we all play a part in creating a future where no animal suffers to find treatments for human diseases, and where medical breakthroughs are discovered through cutting-edge, humane research.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we were able to expand the scheme in 2018 by introducing a three-day Summer School to give the students additional training.

And this year we are pleased to announce that our 2021 Summer School will be taking place in September 2021.

Your continued support has helped the Summer Student programme grow into a hugely valuable initiative to help researchers kick-start their careers with compassion and provide them with the tools to embark on a successful animal free career.

Keep an eye on our website and the next issue of Replacement News where we will be announcing the students and details of their projects.

PILOT STUDY GRANT CALL

In March we launched our Pilot Study Grant call where we will be awarding grants to explore new ideas in animal replacement research that could advance human health.

Pilot Study Grants of £5,000 provide short-term support for proof-of-concept studies for up to a maximum of 12 months. In 2021, we will be funding up to 10 one-year pilot studies.

The purpose of these grants is to allow researchers to explore new ideas in replacement research that might merit further development, and to enable the collection of sufficient data to assist in securing larger funding.

At the time of writing, applications are now closed, and our panel of experts are reviewing all project applications. We will be sharing details of the awarded grants this summer so keep an eye on our website and the next issue of Replacement News.



Our 2019 pilot studies are still ongoing due to COVID-19 restrictions. Here are some of the projects that you help fund in 2019.

Name: Dr Paul Holloway
Uni: University of Oxford
Title: Developing a miniature cell culture model of the brain as a new way to test drugs for stroke

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability. Of the over 1,000 neuro-protective drugs that have been tested in animals, none have been approved. New methods to test drugs in human cells are required. This project is developing a 3D mini cell culture model of stroke as a new way to test drugs.

Name: Prof Tao Wang
Uni: University of Manchester
Title: Creating human stem cell disease models for the study of vascular dementia

Prof Wang is using gene editing technology to create human small vessel disease models that are responsible for the development of dementia. By investigating these cells, Prof Wang aims to understand the disease mechanisms and find human relevant treatment options.

Name: Prof Richard Oreffo
Uni: University of Southampton
Title: Bone pain 3D model

Bone fractures are followed by pain which is often unbearable and cannot be treated. Prof Oreffo is using bone and nerve cells, together with 3D printing, to create a model to test drugs to treat bone pain and reduce the use of animals in research.



Too many animals continue to suffer in laboratories rather than enjoying the comfort and love of a happy home. Although animal free research has been shown on many occasions to be safer and more accurate for treating and understanding human disease - time, money and animals' lives are still being wasted with few breakthroughs and a huge amount of suffering.

Advancing humanity shouldn't cost us our moral compass. Longevity for one species shouldn't equal the suffering of another.

At Animal Free Research UK we will never stop leading the way to a future where humane, effective animal free research will be the norm. A future where people will find it difficult to believe that animals were ever used as laboratory tools. A better, kinder future.

But we need your help.



6 ANIMALS ARE USED IN RESEARCH IN THE UK

In celebration of our 50 years pioneering animal free research, we are launching Challenge for Change where you can take a challenge of your choice and make a real difference.

Every penny raised can help remove the cages holding defenceless animals. You can help free science from the outdated belief that killing animals is a necessary part of medical research.

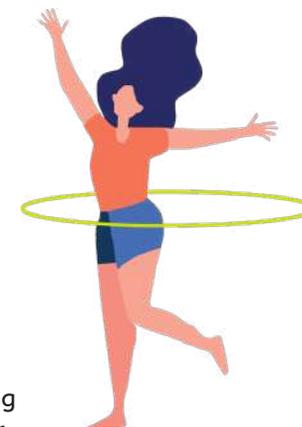
Take action. Create change.



Your challenge, your way

All you need to do is dream up a challenge to complete. It can be based around the number 6 or just a challenge of your choice. Whether you decide to hula hoop for 6 minutes a day for 6 days, climb to the top of Everest on your staircase, or you are already taking part in a virtual challenge and want to fundraise for Animal Free Research UK – you choose your challenge.

Whatever your age or ability, you can take part. The main thing is to get active, have fun and fundraise. However much, big or small, your donations will make a huge difference.



Three easy steps for success:

- Register to join at animalfreeresearchuk.org/challengeforchange
- Set up your fundraising page via Just Giving
- Start your challenge. And don't forget to share with your friends and family!



Animal Free Research UK t-shirt!

Once you register for Challenge for Change you will receive a fantastic Animal Free Research UK t-shirt to wear during your challenge.

Check out these top 3 fundraising tips to help kick-start your fundraising:

Set a fundraising target

Keep yourself motivated with a fundraising goal. Make sure you add it onto your Just Giving Page, so your friends and family know too.

Share your story online

Help to inspire the nation by sharing pictures or videos of your challenge on social media using the official hashtag **#ChallengeForChange**

Personalise your Just Giving page

Get creative and personalise your individual page with why you're taking part and photos of you completing your challenge.



FABULOUS Fundraisers



Once again, from everyone here at 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. 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.

Here are some of our recent fabulous fundraisers.

Kim's lockdown challenge raises £3,655!

A mix of passion for fundraising and the numerous lockdown walks is what inspired Kim Gouldson to set herself the challenge of walking a total of 300km by 1 March.

Kim's husband Allan was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease 7 years ago, and year on year he confounds the medics and makes Kim and his family proud.

"I would give anything for them to find a cure for MND. Sadly, the scientific quest for answers does involve animal testing within the research. Whilst we need cures and treatments, I would also like to see a future for my grandchildren where use of animals in research is a thing of the past."

Kim has generously decided to split the money raised equally between MND Cornwall and Animal Free Research UK.

And Kim well and truly smashed her target walking a total of 714.25 km and raising £3,655!

Congratulations Kim and thank you from everyone at Animal Free Research UK!



Kim and Allan

A special drawing of Carla and Herbie

Our wonderful supporter, Suan, very kindly sent us her wonderful drawing of our CEO Carla and her beagle Herbie.



"A very big thank you for all the special letters, and newsletters and all the things you do, the research, the help, and that animals can be safe, and may there be hope, in the future, for a kinder, happier world, where animals are loved and respected and treated kindly. May you all be blessed and stay safe and well in these difficult times. Best wishes, Suan."

Thank you so much Suan. It's a fantastic drawing and brought joy to the whole team!

Creative school project to spread awareness

Bethany (13 years old) chose Animal Free Research UK as part of her creative school project to spread awareness about animal welfare.

"At school we had to do a project on an issue that I feel passionate about and I chose animal rights and welfare. As part of this project, I had to create a piece of promotional content to spread awareness for my chosen topic."

I chose to include Animal Free Research UK as part of my project as their work is amazing and truly inspiring. They are doing a lot to help animals and I thought that their cause is so important that I knew I had to feature Animal Free Research UK in my project!"

What a fantastic tote bag Bethany - thank you so much for your support!



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!



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.



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!

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.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines vegan?

Currently all drugs that are prescribed by a doctor must be tested on at least two species of animals before they are approved by regulators for use. This usually involves tests first on mice, rats or rabbits and then on dogs or monkeys.

These tests are required by law, and unfortunately non-animal tests are currently not accepted instead.

Sadly, animals have been used in tests in an attempt to determine whether the vaccines are safe for humans.

Animal Free Research UK would never advise anyone not to take medicines or vaccines that have been prescribed by a doctor. Instead, we are working to change the regulations so that effective non-animal research methods can be used to progress drugs into human trials quickly, safely and effectively.

We are also working with MPs to ensure that animal free research gains a prominent place on the political agenda and ultimately results in concrete changes in the law.



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

EMAIL: hello@animalfreeresearchuk.org



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