REPLACEMENT NEWS

Summer 2021- Issue 130

50 1970-2020 YEARS

ANIMAL FREE RESEARCH UK

World Animal Free Research Day

Government Review

Target Zero

2021 Summer Students

Contents

MESSAGE FROM CEO 3
LATEST NEWS 4
GLOBAL NEWS 6
HOME OFFICE STATS 8
Q&A WITH DR JARROD BAILEY 9
TARGET ZERO 10
ARC 1.0 UPDATES 12
ANTIBODIES PROJECT 14
SUMMER STUDENTS 2021 16
WORLD ANIMAL FREE RESEARCH DAY 18
FABULOUS FUNDRAISERS 20
WAYS TO HELP 21
SUPPORTER CORNER 22
HOW YOU CAN HELP 23
A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE 24

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A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

We all have memorable summers and for me the Summer of 2021 is top among them.

The launch of our inaugural **World Animal Free Research Day** on May 27 – our official 50th Birthday - has pinned us firmly into the international animal welfare calendar. As you'll read in this edition of Rep News, the name of our charity rang out not just throughout the UK but internationally too.

Every year May 27 will now see a slew of actions to keep up the pressure on the science community and policy makers to accelerate the uptake of modern medical research and exponentially phase out animal testing.

In late June we announced the appointment of our new Science Director, Dr Jarrod Bailey – you can learn more about him on page 9 but there's no doubting his experience, insight and leadership is a coup for our mission.

The impact of the first World Animal Free Research Day reverberated through to July when we teamed up with our partners Cruelty Free International and Scotland's OneKind to launch **#TargetZero**, an action to protest once more the annual release of Home Office stats that detailed the shockingly high number - nearly three million - animals used in research during 2020.

Stars from Harry Potter, Downton Abbey and Made in Chelsea re-enacted a historic moment of protest in the UK animal protection movement to call for an end to animal testing in the UK - you will see their photo on p11. They helped launch our petition which calls on the government to end reliance on Victorian science and embrace cutting-edge human-specific research methods. If you haven't signed it please do so now by visiting:

www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/TargetZero

A week later news broke on the front page of the Daily Telegraph that the Home Secretary Priti Patel is to launch a review into ending animal testing – and the story referenced the editorial published in the Telegraph at the end of last year by our Patron Joanna Lumley calling for the same.

This is momentous news, unprecedented in fact, and is evidence the parts – big and small - all of us play are having an impact.

So we're all hands on deck to harness this unrivalled momentum to make animal free research the gold standard.

I am sure you'll agree when reading this edition of Replacement News, it certainly has been a summer to remember - all thanks as ever to your ongoing, loyal support.

With grateful thanks,

CARLA OWEN
Chief Executive

GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW ENDING ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS

We have lent our support to the Government's review to end animal experiments in UK laboratories.

It follows July media reports claiming Home Secretary Priti Patel is to task officials with finding ways to end the use of animals in the development of medicines.

According to the reports, Ms Patel met with Lord Goldsmith, the animal welfare minister, after being shocked by a video of a facility where beagles are bred to be tested on. Lord Goldsmith is understood to be pushing for a ban on animal experiments.

Your voices have an impact - as do the words of our patron Joanna Lumley, whose opinion pieces printed in the Daily Telegraph and The Times, were referenced in the Government review story. Joanna, like all of us, is keen to keep the dialogue going and to maximise this golden opportunity to make real policy change.

Last year, there were 2.88 million experiments on animals in British laboratories. Yet as statistics show, over 90% of new medicines that look promising in animal tests fail in human trials because they are unsafe or do not work in humans due to significant differences in our genetic makeup.

While the government is making much of the 15% decrease from the previous year (2019), the Home Office acknowledged lockdowns due to COVID-19 affected laboratories and likely helped reduce the number which annually totals over three million.

We owe it to the millions of animals who have suffered for negligible human benefit to end the century of unimaginable pain in UK laboratories.

If Britain is to become a science superpower it must lead by example. It must accelerate the use of animal free research and aim for target zero animal experiments, starting today.

"The government should invest more in technologies such as testing on human lab-grown organs and cells, and limiting the reasons for which creatures can be used in experiments. And it must increase the training and educational opportunities available to early careers researchers so that the next generation of scientists see animal free technologies as the gold standard.

These points must form part of the review if we are to end animal testing and see Britain help shape a world where human diseases are cured faster without animal suffering."

Joanna Lumley OBE

PILOT STUDY SUCCESSES

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our supporters, we are able to offer Pilot Study grants to allow researchers to explore new ideas in replacement research that might merit further development and to assist in securing larger funding.

These two projects have achieved exactly what our hope and vision was for this scheme.

Dr Paul Holloway

Developing a miniature cell culture model of the brain as a new method to test drugs for stroke

Animal Free Research UK funding has enabled Paul at Oxford University to secure a £150,000 grant in collaboration with Cambridge University and an Oxford-based biotech company to use their organ-on-a-chip system to test a novel therapeutic approach to treat genetic stroke disorders.

Not only has Paul's Pilot Study grant attracted further funding, it has also jump started a number of other projects that will ultimately replace the use of animals in stroke research and will allow more human relevant research.

Paul will continue to collaborate with key players in stroke research to promote and further characterise this model. He also aims to further develop this model to study how white blood cells interact with vessels and post-stroke inflammatory responses to allow wider impact, better pre-clinical predictive power and continue to replace animals used in research.

Dr Fran Arrigoni

Assessing circulatory function from a blood sample

Underlying many cardiovascular diseases is damage to the lining of the blood vessel, known as the endothelium. The endothelial lining produces an active gas, nitric oxide, which is protective against blood vessels becoming sticky or forming clots.

Fran's projects involved growing cells from blood samples that are representative of your blood vessel lining and then investigating the nitric oxide pathway within them. This pathway determines the health of your blood vessels and its investigation has the potential to understand the health of people with cardiovascular disease.

The results from her study were presented at the Physiological Society conference. The research is highly novel in that it is the first time that these pathways have been investigated using cells from the lining of blood vessels (endothelial cells) from a blood sample.

GLOBAL REPLACEMENT NEWS

"Mini-brains" to replace mice used in stroke research

Scientists at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany want to enable research into damage after strokes without animal testing by developing "mini-brains" in the lab.

The three-year project will focus on 3D organoids in an *in vitro* process during which cell structures are produced in the lab that resemble human organs to be used as tissue for investigations.

"If we can achieve this, there will be 20,000 fewer mice used in experiments per year," estimates Prof. Dirk M. Hermann (Chair of Vascular Neurology, Dementia and Aging Research).

Latest 'organ-on-a-chip' is a new way to study cancer-related muscle wasting

Studying drug effects on human muscles just got easier thanks to a new "muscle-on-a-chip," developed by a team of researchers from Penn's School of Engineering and Applied Science and Inha University in Incheon, Korea.

Muscle tissue is essential to almost all of the body's organs, however, diseases such as cancer and diabetes can cause muscle tissue degradation or "wasting," severely decreasing organ function and quality of life. Traditional drug testing for treatment and prevention of muscle wasting is limited through animal testing, which does not capture the complexity of the human physiology.

Using their new muscle-on-a-chip, the researchers can safely run muscle injury experiments on human tissue, test targeted cancer drugs and supplements, and determine the best preventative treatment for muscle wasting.

GLOBAL NEWS

Mathematical models and computer simulations are the new frontiers in COVID-19 drug trials

A research team from the University of Waterloo are using computer models to simulate COVID-19 infections on a cellular level - the basic structural level of the human body.

The models allow for virtual trials of drugs and vaccines, opening the possibility of pre-assessment for drug and vaccine efficacy against the virus.

The team uses "in silico" experiments via computer simulation to replicate how the human immune system deals with the COVID-19 virus.

New Biomedical Research Centre launched in Berlin

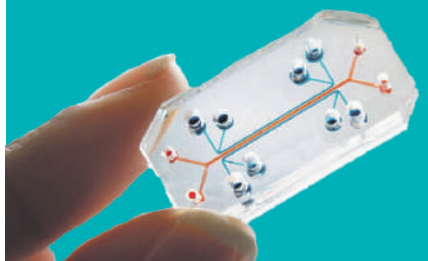
The new Einstein Centre for Alternative Methods in Biomedical Research in Berlin was launched in June bringing together the expertise of Berlin's pioneering and innovative biomedical researchers. The Einstein Foundation has committed to provide 5.3 million Euros until the end of 2026.

Research will focus on 3D models of human tissue designed to offer a replacement to animal testing opening a new window into understanding and treating human diseases.

Human-airway-on-a-chip developed in the fight against COVID-19

The Wyss Institute in Boston USA has led a collaboration which developed a human-airway-on-a-chip for the rapid identification of drugs that could be repurposed for treating COVID-19.

The organ-on-a-chip based system established by the collaboration greatly streamlines the process of evaluating the safety and efficacy of existing drugs for new medical applications and provides a proof-of-concept for the use of organ-on-a-chips to rapidly repurpose existing drugs for new medical applications, including future pandemics.



"With organ-on-a-chip technology in hand, we are now in a stronger position to confront future pandemics," said Don Ingber, Professor of Vascular Biology at Harvard Medical School.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: 2021 HOME OFFICE STATS

"On first reading of this year's Home Office's Annual Statistics, some might have felt optimistic.

The report revealed the number of animal experiments in British laboratories decreased by 15% to around 2.88 million - the lowest since 2004. But scroll down the figures and the mood darkens.

Most of the research using mice was on the immune and nervous systems, and for cancer - even though these areas are known to involve hugely significant species differences between mice and humans that impede and prevent the translation of data to benefit humankind.

The number of dogs went up by 3% and cats up by 11%. The number of horses used for research has risen by 29% over the past decade. Even to those who do not keep pets – dear companions to those of us that do - this trio of rises is simply appalling and unacceptable.

As much as we would like to play up the positive 15% decrease overall, we must ask ourselves: what was the reason for the fall?

Was it effective Government Policy and determination by the medical research sector to phase out archaic animal use and replace it with the available, modern techniques that harvest human data more accurately, cheaper and faster?

Alas, no. The Home Office admitted that COVID-19 lockdowns were a factor in the 15% reduction.

Needless to say it should not take a global pandemic to see fewer animals suffering in UK laboratories.

Shortly after the release of the statistics, it was reported that Home Secretary Priti Patel was to order a review of animal use in medical experiments, reportedly after a video of beagles bred for research went viral.

Whatever sparked the Government into action, what is now required is a determined policy push to end the use of animals in research.

By investing in human relevant research and fully supporting the next generation of animal-free scientists, this government now has an opportunity to lead the world to a kinder, better science."

Dr Jarrod Bailey, Science Director

DR JARROD BAILEY, SCIENCE DIRECTOR

What spurred you to become an animal free researcher?

I can remember a time long ago when I, like many, passively and reluctantly accepted that animal research was an indispensable part of science. I never wanted to do it myself, nor even to be part of a group that conducted research on animals. That position developed into an outright opposition to it.

During a position as a senior research associate, I wondered why other scientists working on the same issue used animals: why weren't they using human tissue and cells like other scientists, including me? We were studying a human issue, after all, and it became clear that important differences between species were confounding the matter.

It was then my epiphany happened and with that the ethical dimension of biomedical research is intimately entwined with the scientific aspect; that they are not separate entities. Using the best available tools constitutes the best science, and the best science is demanded by human ethics.

It's this conviction that led me to change tack and to start working with groups around the world trying to change how biomedical research is conducted, to give it a human focus - instead of an animal-centred one.

What excites you about your new role at Animal Free Research UK?

I'm hugely excited about joining Animal Free Research UK! It was immediately clear that the organisation has a strong team doing fabulous and varied work, with a formidable strategy and effective collaborations to realise all that we and our supporters want to see achieved. I'm excited about working with early career scientists, students, established researchers, research funders, those with the power to change things through legislation, and more. I'm convinced we can do great things, and quickly.

Anything you'd like to add...

Animal free research is not just tomorrow's science – it's happening right now.

One day soon, we'll hit critical mass and it will snowball, as more and more researchers and other stakeholders become comfortable and confident with these methods. With the help and actions taken by you, our amazing supporters, we can make this happen much more quickly than it might otherwise—so a big thank you to all of you.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS GLARING OMISSION FROM POLICY

By Isobel Hutchinson, Head of Public & Regulatory Affairs

Animal welfare has been ringing out up and down the corridors and in the meeting chambers of Westminster over the past few months.

Following the Queen's speech in May, the Government published an Action Plan for Animal Welfare - and the long-awaited Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill was introduced into Parliament.

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill, which includes measures to tackle puppy smuggling and ban the live export of animals for slaughter, was also published.

The Government has also scaled up its commitment to becoming a 'science superpower' - including the launch of a new Office for Science and Technology Strategy to be led by the Chief Scientific Adviser – plus a National Science and Technology Council chaired by the Prime Minister.

Reasons to loudly cheer, you'd think...

Sadly though, animals in laboratories seem to have fallen through the cracks in this parallel progress on science and animal protection. The Government's Action Plan for Animal Welfare gave just a passing mention to animals in labs, promising to maintain 'high standards of protection.'

When the Home Office's own reports contain shocking incidents of animals in labs dying from neglect, these 'high standards' have little credibility. In mid-July, the government's statistics confirmed that 2,813,887 million animals were used in experiments in British laboratories in 2020.

Despite this lack of progress, the Government is though gradually starting to see the merits of human relevant science. The Medical Research Council has recently made £5 million available for a collaboration to investigate human disease and specifies that animal research will not be funded.

2,813,887 million animals were used in experiments in British laboratories in 2020.

Given the nearly three million animals used in experiments in 2020 - each a sentient individual not a number - this gradual warming towards animal free approaches is not enough.

The Government needs now to be bold enough to do the right thing and take concrete action to replace animals with high-tech alternatives.

The first step is a fundamental shift in thinking. Rather than seeing animal experiments as a "necessary evil' to be regulated, the Government must recognise the ethical and scientific imperative of bringing them to an end. Just as it is now accepted that decisive action is needed to tackle the climate crisis, the Government must have the courage to end the outdated practice of animal experiments.

That is why we have teamed up with **Cruelty Free International** and **OneKind** to launch a government e-petition calling for an end to animal experiments. The petition, launched on the day the annual statistics were released, calls on the Government to publish a concrete action plan to phase out animal experiments.

If you haven't already, please sign the petition via our website - **www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/TargetZero** - and share it with your friends and family.

We have just six months to secure the 100,000 signatures that will grant us the chance of a debate in Parliament - so time is of the essence.

Evanna Lynch (Harry Potter), Lucy Watson (Made in Chelsea), and Lesley Nicol (Downton Abbey) join forces with Animal Free Research UK, Cruelty Free International and OneKind to recreate an iconic photo from 1919 protesting against animal experiments.

Modernising Medical Research campaign gathers pace

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the 1480 people who contacted their MP following the launch of our Modernising Medical Research report. Three MPs have raised this issue with the Prime Minister, and five Parliamentary Questions have been asked on this topic. We will continue to press the need for a new department or ministerial position to accelerate the replacement of animals with human relevant techniques.

Animal free scientists write to Chief Scientific Adviser

Animal Free Research UK's Scientific Advisory Panel has written to Sir Patrick Vallance, the UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, who will lead the new Office for Science and Technology Strategy. Our team of leading scientists emphasised the importance of prioritising animal free approaches.

Isobel Hutchinson Head of Public & Regulatory Affairs

ANIMAL REPLACEMENT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

In spite of the pandemic, it has been a busy year at the Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence (ARC) at Queen Mary University London's Blizard Institute, which has been funded by a 5-year, £1 million investment by Animal Free Research UK - all thanks to our amazing supporters like you.

Benefits of working on human cancer tumours set to be published

Dr Adrian Biddle and Dr Gehad Youssef published the initial results of their study in April 2020 and are now finalising this study for publication in an academic journal.

"Both have shown via their research that a particularly aggressive type of tumour cell identified in human cancer cells in a dish is also present in real human tumour specimens and is associated with poor outcome for the patient," explained Professor Mike Philpott, who leads the team.

"This resolves a major difference between animal and human tumours, expands the range of techniques that can be performed using human tumour specimens, and shows the benefit of working with human tumours instead of animals," he added.

Gehad is Cambridge bound

Dr Gehad Youssef

Cancer stem cell research scientist Gehad is moving on from the ARC to take up his next postdoctoral position at the University of Cambridge.

"This is a great move for Gehad, who will use this new position to further develop his skills in using artificial intelligence to predict human drug interactions – a key animal replacement approach that Gehad has developed a passion for during his time at the ARC," says Professor Mike Philpott.

Funding boost expands cutting edge research

Adrian is now managing several new projects that are building on and expanding the initial work of the ARC, made possible by the attraction of substantial new funding to the ARC from both UK government and charity funders.

These include developing a metastasis-on-a-chip device that faithfully mimics human metastasis (the spread of cancer cells), developing a test to predict treatment requirements for head and neck cancer.

He will also join a new Medical Research Council funded project starting in the Autumn that will bring these approaches together to develop new cancer treatments without using animals.

Prodigy Muhammad forges ARC future

Muhammad Rahman is finishing off experiments for publication and writing for fellowships. Muhammad has been working on a population of aggressive cancer cells called 'amoeboid' cells which are associated with highly aggressive cancers of the mouth.

Muhammad Rahman

Using human samples and generating human amoeboid cell lines, he has identified a number of markers that identify these cells in human cancer.

"We intend to develop Muhammad's work through further grants with an aim of developing these markers for diagnostic use in head and neck cancer," explains Professor Philpott.

In collaboration with Adrian, Muhammad will apply to the Medical Research Council for a Career Development Grant which would allow him to establish his career as an independent academic at the ARC.

ARC team receive Fanconi Anaemia funding boost

Fanconi anaemia is a rare genetic disorder associated with multiple birth defects, increased risk of leukaemia and solid tumours, and progressive aplastic anaemia which is a serious condition that occurs when the body stops producing enough blood cells.

With support from the Fanconi Anaemia Research Fund, the team have developed a model using human cells that mimic Fanconi Anaemia cells and have discovered potential mechanisms that may explain why Fanconi Anaemia patients develop such aggressive oral tumours, and how these cancerous cells are able to become enriched over time.

"We have applied to the Fanconi Anaemia Research Fund for further funding to use our model to test existing drugs against these cells. We have also identified new targets that enhance tumour formation potential that we can block, thus reducing cancer cell aggressiveness and may be a good target to use in combination with existing cancer therapies," added Professor Philpott.

Medical student Ali returns to ARC

Ali Mehmood

Queen Mary University London medical student Ali Mehmood - who carried out a research project in the ARC as part of his degree - has returned as a summer student to work with one of Mike Philpott's PhD students, Evija Dzene.

He will join Gehad and Muhammad in using artificial intelligence to develop a prognostic score of ageing-related genes that can be used in a clinical setting to predict tumour recurrence.

"The project brings together Gehads expertise in artificial intelligence, Evija's work on ageing related genes and Muhammad's skills in developing cell lines," said Professor Philpott.

SUMMER SCHOOL PRODIGY NIAMH RETURNS FOR WORLD FIRST ANTIBODIES PROJECT

Summer School Class of 2018 graduate Niamh Haslett has joined the Animal Free Research UK team for two ground-breaking projects.

The PhD student has as part of a Knowledge Exchange partnership between the charity and the University of Hertfordshire been appointed Science Project Coordinator.
She will as part of a joint team effort help design a new rapid results test for the presence of opioids using novel detection methods without using antibodies taken from animals.

And she will also seek to create an easy-to-use, effective resource database for all scientists to access and help them move towards replacing their animal derived research materials.

Niamh explained: "The current method for testing for opioids requires antibodies retrieved from animals. We aim to find an alternative test by using previous experimental literature, computational techniques, and synthetic chemistry to build up a database of macromolecules that can be used instead of these antibodies.

"And we hope to create a new, more accurate, and easy-to-use test that is designed for humans, with no need for animal use at any point in its creation."

Opioid misuse has been steadily increasing in the UK over the past decade. According to the Office for National Statistics, deaths from opiate poisoning in the UK have increased by 37% over the last ten years. Roughly 115,000 opioid prescriptions are written in the UK every day.

The new rapid test will immediately detect whether somebody is experiencing an opioid overdose, allowing first responders to deliver lifesaving treatment quicker.

The database resource will help researchers move away from using animal tissues for antibodies by listing commercially available alternatives.

Said Niamh: "There is a staunch lack of awareness - especially among early career scientists like me - of alternatives to animal-derived biomaterials, so I aim to create a collaborative database where researchers can, for example, look to replace animal-derived antiodies for their experiments with suitable animal free products that fits their research needs."

The database will also allow researchers to add any new alternatives they find that come to market.

"By making animal-free alternatives more accessible, the use of animals will hopefully decrease."

Becoming an animal free scientist was fuelled by her Animal Free Research UK funded Summer Student Programme experience.

"The funding I received from supporters like you through the Summer Student Programme in 2018 allowed me to dedicate eight weeks to a research project I would otherwise not have been able to undertake.
I gained research experience, was exposed to professional environments, and developed valuable skills I still rely on today. The experience was vital to my career progression. I was able to get real hands-on experience with novel research techniques and find a passion for animal free research methodologies. Thank you for your support!".

Niamh hails from rural Northern Ireland growing up surrounded by animals.

"I am passionate about their welfare and have been involved with their care since I was a kid. This led me to follow a plant-based lifestyle and actively advocate for animal rights.

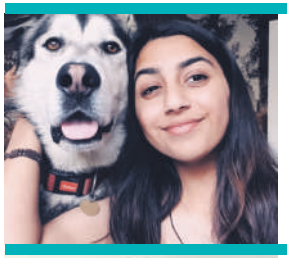
My parents both work in healthcare and they inspired me to pursue chemistry in a way that would lead to the betterment of people's lives".

Niamh Haslett

"My undergraduate degree in pharmaceutical science at University of Hertfordshire introduced me to the good work that Animal Free Research UK have been doing for 50 years. This opportunity to work for Animal Free Research UK will allow me to become a scientist without compromising on my own morals. I am ecstatic to be a part of the future of research that is compassionate, improved - and most importantly, animal free."

THE CLASS ACT OF 2021 - MEET OUR SUMMER STUDENTS

Our Summer Student Programme is back and this year we see 11 early career scientists from leading universities work on projects to find treatments for human diseases using cutting-edge, humane research.



Riddhi Sharma
Bath University

Project: Parkinson's disease: developing animal-free methods to study genetic and environmental causes.

Izzy Breithaupt
University of Liverpool

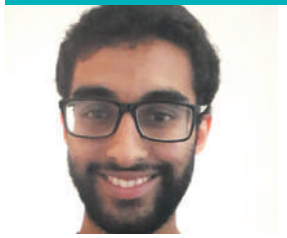
Project: Creating an animal-free approach towards regulatory (gene)toxicity testing methods.

Morwenna Oldfield
University of Birmingham

Project: Development of a novel method to advance drug delivery in the eye.

Amir Fard
Cambridge University

Project: Using organoids (miniaturized version of an organ) to investigate the causes of colon cancer.



Ali Mehmood
Queen Mary University London

Project: Development of an ageing-associated tumour score to predict prognosis in head and neck cancer using artificial intelligence approaches.

Emily-Rose Martin
University of Exeter

Project: Designing an animal free method of growing neuron-like cells to study brain development.

Fiona Dhi Nang
University of Nottingham

Project: Development of a computational model to simulate the leading causes of cardiac arrest.

Imogen Carmichael
Keele University

Project: Developing a new cell-based model to study dementia.

Rosie Davis
Sheffield Hallam University

Project: Breaking down barriers to improve bowel cancer treatments.

Yutong Chen
Cambridge University

Project: Exploring artificial intelligence-based methods to reduce the time taken to acquire magnetic resonance images (MRI).

Dania Alkhatib
Queen Mary University of London

Project: Validation of a cancer stem cell scoring method to predict the spread of head and neck tumours using artificial intelligence approaches.

Visit **www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/summerstudent/programme** to find our more about our 2021 students and their pioneering projects.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES...

World Animal Free Research Day is the pivot around which we can make our kinder, better science the gold standard.

By Mimmo Di Giacomo, Director of Fundraising, Marketing & Communications

In the song *What a Difference a Day Makes* sung by American singer and pianist Dinah Washington, a rainbow is celebrated after the storm – inferring the opening up of new horizons and a renewed faith in what lies ahead of us.

The lyrics have resonated ever since 27 May when we launched the inaugural **World Animal Free Research Day** and published our Strategy 2020-23, aptly titled "A Brighter Future".

Animal Free Research UK may not (yet!) be an internationally influencing body like the UN - but we believed there was a gap in the calendar marking sentient beings and animal rights.

Every year, there are hundreds of dates in the calendar marking a day for people to take action in some way, be it remembering or acknowledging an event or issue.

There was a glaring omission - a scheduled time to look forward, renew commitment and take action to free the millions of animals killed each year in name of a science stuck in the Victorian Age.

Hence World Animal Free Research Day, which aims to realise the present situation and to inspire transformative change.

The rationale for setting a date with an annual recurrence is to regroup, take stock and find unique ways to raise awareness so more people become aware of the issue and get behind our cause to stop animal experiments once for all.

May 27 was chosen for an obvious reason – it's our birthday! Indeed, the planned launch of World Animal Free Research Day was to be on our 50th last year but we had to postpone it like so many others due to the pandemic. At 51 years old, we're still leading animal free research in the UK and we're going from strength to strength, raising awareness and harvesting support further afield.

Modernising Medical Research - 1480 emails to MPs - Thank you!

Sir David Amess and Dr Lisa Cameron were amongst the MPs who joined us in the launch. The day was also a resounding success beyond UK borders, with Humane Canada, the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE) and hundreds of international supporters as far as Italy, France, US, Australia and South-East Asia who endorsed the day.

Among the many things to note about May 27 was the strongest participation ever seen on social media. We had 100k+ views of our compelling video, and our engagement emails were the most frequently opened - with unprecedented actions of support.

Our short film showing our vision for a brighter future for humans and animals has over 100k views!

This was a fantastic result: we have raised awareness to a new level and May 27 felt a bit like Christmas had come early given the increased activity which helps secure our forward planning.

There is still much to do if we are to make animal free the gold standard in medical research. It has yet to become the default career choice of young scientists. So we need your generosity, determination and support year-round to push back against outdated animal-based research.

THE TIMES

Fury of the Hillsborough families as trial collapses

The Guardian

ands of people d to die'

Full page spread for World Animal Free Research Day in The Guardian & letter from Joanna Lumley in The Times

We still require more funds because we are a lifeline for many scientists and researchers, more so during Covid and its aftermath. Your donations help secure continuity for the projects they so passionately commit to – and ipso facto, the more scientists we have working animal free the sooner we end the suffering for good.

World Animal Free Research Day is now the pivot around which we can support and promote the incredible and innovative expertise the animal free scientists you help fund are spreading the world over.

Dinah Washington's song ends with "and the difference is you". How right she is! We cannot express enough our gratitude for celebrating an incredible day and renewing your commitment to animal free research – a kinder more compassionate science.

We now look forward to 27 May 2022 – so together let's make it another breakthrough year for animals in laboratories and move a step closer to their Freedom Day.

Mimmo Di Giacomo,
Director of Fundraising,
Marketing & Communications

BUDE COMMUNITY UNITES IN SUPPORT

The Bude community marked the inaugural **World Animal Free Research Day** in style.

Community Ambassador Steph Jones-Giles collaborated with Community Champion for Bude Morrisons Nichola Wickenden, to plan some joint celebrations. Nichola explains "Morrisons in Bude were proud to support the first World Animal Free Research Day. We hosted a weeklong awareness event and staff wore charity t-shirts. We are looking forward to continuing the event in 2022!"

Steph & the Morrisons team

The response from the local community was fantastic with several other businesses taking part in World Animal Free Research Day. Banfords, Bellini's Kitchen Deli, Bude Health Store, Crooklets Beach Cafe, Fusion Fitness and Wellness Centre, Hazel Crumplin Dog Groomer, Refill Shop Bude and Widemouth Bay Cafe all jumped at the chance to help raise awareness. Several local runners also joined in wearing Animal Free Research UK t-shirts when out and about.

Team Nos Nom

The incredible Team Nos Nom had a creative plan for Challenge for Change. They wrote, acted, made the costumes, produced and filmed a fabulous virtual panto style theatre experience. Another amazing fundraising achievement from the whole group. Not only did they entertain, they raised £1,253.75 so huge thanks to them!

Steph says "I have to mention the incredible support I receive from the staff at Animal Free Research UK who I cannot fault in their attentiveness. I would like to thank the fabulous local paper (Bude & Stratton Post) for offering continuous support to us. Thanks to the amazing generosity from the local community, the week raised over £1,500. And as a group, we are heading towards an incredible £5,000 total raised in 2021 so far. At a time when face to face events have not been possible, I must say I am very proud of the group. Onwards and definitely upwards to the next target. We won't stop until animals are no longer used in research."

Another incredible show of support from everyone in Bude!

CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE

Every minute of every day, 6 animals are used in research in the UK.

You can take action for animals by taking on our Challenge for Change!

Check out some of our amazing Challenge for Change fundraisers already making a difference.

Register to join at:

www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/challengeforchange

Heather's climb to the top

Heather climbed 6 days in a row in 6 different climbing centres across the UK to fundraise for a kinder science.

Samantha's run for change

Samantha ran 16km to raise vital funds for Animal Free Research UK. Her challenge was 6km more than her longest run.

Emily's multi-run challenge

Emily ran 6x 60-minute runs in 6 days. Don't worry, Cinnamon the rat was paid in her favourite treats to have her photo published!

Sophie's 55 miles for Breast Cancer

"I am raising funds for animal free research into Breast Cancer prevention. To do this, I am walking 55 circuits around our local lakes. 55 circuits of the lakes amount to 55 miles. Why 55 circuits? Because 55 thousand women in the UK are diagnosed with Breast Cancer every year."

Sophie smashed her fundraising target and raised an incredible £1,890!

We cannot continue the work that we do without the grit, determination and generosity of our wonderful supporters - THANK YOU!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

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

Shop for a Kinder Science

Welcome to the Animal Free Research UK shop!

We have a range of fabulous items for sale. Perfect as gifts for friends and family or as a treat for yourself.

And what's even better is that every purchase will support our vision for a kinder, compassionate science to build a brighter future for humans and for the animals.

shop.animalfreeresearchuk.org

Make your birthday even more meaningful and set up a Facebook birthday fundraiser asking friends to donate as an alternative gift.

giftaid it

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

Select us as your charity of choice and then Amazon will donate every time you shop! Head over to smile.amazon.co.uk

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 spent?

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

What are 'charitable activites'?

Charitable activities are defined as expenditure relating to the objectives and purpose of the charity. Our objectives are the prevention of the suffering of animals and the advancement of human health, by the promotion of and funding of human-relevant replacements to the use of animals in scientific and medical research.

The cost of charitable activities (93p for every £1 donated) include providing animal free research grants, our Summer School Programme, the cost of supporting charitable activities, and the governance of the charity.

The remaining 7p is what goes directly on fundraising activities to generate more funds for the charity.

Our most recent financial statements for last year - the year ending 2019-20 - are available to view on the Charity Commission for England and Wales website where you can find out more about our income and expenditure.

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

EMAIL: hello@animalfreeresearchuk.org

PROTECT THE FUTURE

A gift for the Future

What is your legacy going to be?

Gift in Wills are vitally important to us, as Animal Free Research UK receives no government funding. We are only able to carry out our vital work because people like you care about others, care about animals and believe in making the world a better place through kinder science.

A gift in your will helps us consign animal experiments to history. Every project we fund is moving us along to a time where animals are no longer used in medical research.

Large *or* **small,**
leaving a gift in your will can make
a **BIG difference.**

For more information about leaving a gift in your will, please contact:

Email - legacies@animalfreeresearchuk.org

Telephone - +44 (0)20 8054 9700