



Eight steps to accelerate human relevant innovation

1 Commission an inquiry into the human relevance of current medical research

The lack of progress in addressing many diseases has left patients and their families frustrated, and lacking hope for effective treatments. We are calling for a formal inquiry to be held into the human relevance of current medical research, to establish which scientific approaches can best deliver human relevant results and provide the focus of future biomedical research.

2 Ensure that UK law contains a clear commitment to the ultimate replacement of animal experiments with human relevant methods

The European Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was transposed into UK law, and its main substance has been retained post-Brexit. However, the Directive's recitals have not been retained, including a clear commitment to the ultimate replacement of animals. Britain must now take bolder steps to advance science and animal welfare, and a commitment to the ultimate replacement of animals should be stated in law.

3 Produce an action plan for encouraging the widespread adoption of human relevant research techniques

The Government should develop a detailed action plan, with global collaboration at the heart, setting out how it will facilitate the widespread adoption of human relevant research techniques. The Government must ensure that an appropriate body is appointed to deliver the plan, and that there is clear accountability for doing so.

4 Launch a well-resourced programme of practical support and training to improve awareness and knowledge of human relevant techniques

Gaps in training and technical knowledge represent key barriers to the wider take-up of human relevant techniques. Government should set up a network of laboratories designed to provide practical support to scientists in transitioning to human relevant techniques. This would strengthen the UK's position as a world leader in the field of medical research.

5 Provide funding to improve the human relevance of research - on a scale that reflects the urgency and importance of this issue

Improving the human relevance of research should become a policy priority for the Government, and this should be reflected in budget allocations. Investment in human relevant techniques offers a major opportunity for supporting the UK's economic growth, and its ambition to become a 'science superpower'.

6 Use the Research and Development tax reliefs system to incentivise human relevant research

While specific funding for the development of cutting-edge human-specific techniques is vital, additional support could be provided through a revision of government policy on Research and Development tax reliefs. We believe that research which uses or develops human relevant techniques produces greater benefits for society than animal-based research, and should be incentivised accordingly.

7 Enable experts in human relevant research to suggest approaches that would replace animal use

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 makes it clear that animal experiments should only be licensed when a suitable non-animal method is not available. However, there is strong evidence to suggest that this provision is not being enforced. Appropriately anonymised versions of project licence applications should be shared with stakeholders who have expertise in human-specific methods. This would provide a valuable training opportunity for researchers who would receive constructive feedback and signposting to relevant resources.

8 Appoint a Minister for Human Relevant Science

At present, responsibility for animal research is shared between several different departments. We are calling for a new specific role, which would be tasked with leading the transition to human relevant science and be held accountable for its progress. This would involve working closely with ministers across other departments in order to bring about dedicated and much needed cultural change.



About Animal Free Research UK

Animal Free Research UK is Britain's leading medical research charity working for a world where human diseases are cured faster without animal suffering. The charity funds pioneering animal free research that saves humans and animals and is forging a future where animals are replaced with modern, human relevant techniques.

Animal Free Research UK
27 Old Gloucester Street
London WC1N 3AX

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(No. 1146896) and Scotland (No. SC045327)
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(No. 08015625) in England and Wales

