

REPLACEMENT NEWS

Summer 2023 - Issue 138



Inside:

Home Office Annual Statistics

Parliamentary Reception

lifETIME CDT Partnership

Revolutionising Cancer Treatment



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Unlocking a better world

What a busy and momentous time our charity has enjoyed since the last edition of Replacement News, so much so I'm asking myself where to start!

Let's begin with our flagship World Animal Free Research Day on May 27th which was marked with our Parliamentary Reception supported by our brilliant host, Shadow Minister Ruth Jones MP.

MPs Giles Watling and Alex Sobel joined Ruth in giving inspiring speeches, each calling on the Government to accelerate the uptake of human-specific technologies in medical research and to move away from animal research. At the reception, we also launched our policy briefing – "How Human-Specific Technologies Can Transform Lives and Supercharge the Economy" – which outlines the public health and economic benefits of animal-free research and calls on the Government to take decisive action so Britain can harness its full potential. You can read more about the events at our Parliamentary reception, on page 12.

In July, the Home Office released its annual statistics which confirmed that there were over 2.76 million experiments on animals in British laboratories in 2022. These statistics prove once again that we urgently need a full transition to the use of human-specific technologies and away from

the outdated use of animals in medical research. Full details of the statistics are on page 10.

We are proud to be involved with the lifETIME CDT helping to train the next generation of animal-free scientists and address long-standing issues with drug development pipelines. Animal Free Research UK is currently supporting Professor Matt Dalby and PhD student Lauren Hope through the lifETIME CDT programme to develop an animal-free model of human bone marrow which will offer a unique solution for overcoming blood cancer drug resistance. You can read more about this pioneering project on page 8.

I just have room to squeeze in a special mention to our amazing community fundraising groups in Bude and London who continue to dedicate their time to fundraise for us - thank you!

Finally, on behalf of all the team, the scientists you fund and the animals you speak out for, my heartfelt thanks. It's your generosity and support that makes the good news that pack these pages!

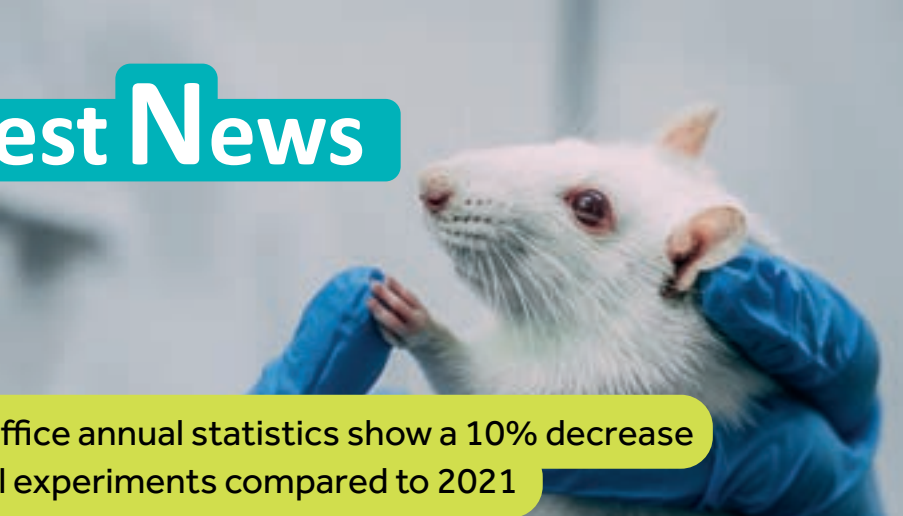
With grateful thanks,



CARLA OWEN
 Chief Executive



Latest News



Home Office annual statistics show a 10% decrease in animal experiments compared to 2021

2.76 million animal experiments were carried out in Great Britain in 2022. This represents a 10% decrease compared to 2021, and the lowest number of experiments since 2002.

We are encouraged by the decrease in animal experiments shown in the statistics and believe this reflects the growing number of scientists who are embracing animal-free methodologies. Now, we are calling on the Government to take action to significantly accelerate the pace of change and make Britain a world leader in Ethical Innovation.

A full transition to the use of human-specific technologies and away from the outdated use of animals in medical research is essential to make the progress that patients so desperately need.

Read more about this on page 10.

Dr Laura Bramwell's graduation

Animal Free Research UK funded Dr Laura Bramwell celebrated her graduation at the University of Exeter in July. Huge congratulations Laura!

Laura was the first PhD student at our Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence (ARC 2.0) at the University of Exeter, and now she is embarking on a postdoctoral research project and continuing to use the animal-free techniques she developed during her PhD, and continuing to advocate for animal-free techniques in the laboratory.



Animal Free Research UK-backed scientists call for increased Government funding as Minister seeks to ease NHS pressure

Leading medical researchers have written to the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whatley MP, urging the Government to accelerate the uptake of human-specific technologies in medical research. The call comes as Government seeks to ease pressure on the NHS as it's been revealed that one in four people suffering from two or more major long-term health conditions.

The Animal Free Research UK-backed scientists are experts in cancer, musculoskeletal disorders, cardiovascular disease and diabetes and use cutting-edge technologies such as organ-chips, artificial intelligence, and advanced human cells and tissues to achieve medical breakthroughs without using animals.

Scientists from leading universities are calling for increased funding for the development of new human-specific technologies. This is in response to a Government consultation on its Major Conditions Strategy which seeks ideas on how it can make better use of research, data and digital technologies to improve patient outcomes.

We know that accelerating the uptake of human-specific technologies is key to making the medical breakthroughs patients deserve. Innovative and ethical research is gaining momentum the world over due to its clear potential to make much-needed discoveries in human health. The USA has recognised this with its FDA Modernization Act, and it is crucial the UK keeps pace and drives forward human-specific science that can save lives.

Win £25,000 with our brand new lottery!

From just £1 a week you can play the Animal Free Research UK lottery and be in with a chance of winning £25,000!

Every player has a 1 in 63 chance of winning ANY prize.

With at least 50p from every £1 you play going to Animal Free Research UK, this exciting endeavor brings together the joy of winning big with the power to create positive change in the world for both humans and animals. It's an opportunity for you to make a difference while also having a chance to win amazing prizes.

Use your phone to scan the code and play today



The Gateway to Opportunity

Building a brighter future at the lifETIME CDT

The lifETIME CDT (Engineered Tissues for Discovery, Industry and Medicine - Centre for Doctoral Training) is a partnership between the University of Glasgow, the University of Birmingham, Aston University and CÚRAM – Science Foundation Ireland.

The lifETIME CDT focuses on developing animal-free technologies for drug discovery, toxicology screening and regenerative medicine.

And Animal Free Research UK is delighted and proud to be involved with the lifETIME CDT. This partnership is aiming to address long-standing issues with drug development pipelines, by training innovative young researchers in the use of advanced human-relevant techniques. By replacing animal testing with these methods, this next generation of scientists will lead the way towards a more humane, more human relevant, more successful way of developing and testing new drugs.

“Thanks to charities such as Animal Free Research UK, research that drives forward animal-free research can go ahead. I have loved my project so far and especially love the fact that what I’m doing could replace the need for animals in research”

Lauren Hope, lifETIME CDT student



Finding A Better Way



Their graduates will develop multidisciplinary, high-value skills in the design, creation and application of new knowledge to accelerate therapeutic discovery. Along with industrial, clinical and charitable partners, the lifETIME CDT will build the cohort of talent the sector needs to thrive.

Gateway to Opportunity

From engineers, chemists and physicists, to biologists, mathematicians and clinicians, there is an opportunity for all who are interested in working together to meet the challenges of improving health. Students are hosted in dynamic labs and will have the opportunity for travel around the UK and the rest of the world.

The CDT offers students to perform exciting science, become a leader in the field, develop a network of like-minded talent and help to grow the rapidly emerging sector focused on engineering better models for drug discovery.

My placement experience

By Lauren Hope, lifETIME CDT

“ The LifETIME CDT’s approach towards research was one of the aspects of the CDT that attracted me to it, as I believe we can develop much more human-relevant models that replace animal research therefore ending animal and human harm.

There are still many barriers that limit the more widespread use of non-animal technologies in drug testing – therefore, I was interested in uncovering more information about these barriers, and investigating ways in which we could overcome them.

Animal Free Research UK are a charity who hold views similar to mine. I chose to work with them for multiple reasons: firstly, I believe in their cause and wanted to help; secondly, I was interested in learning more about working for a charity, to gain experience in a science-related job that was not lab-based. I was very excited to work with the Science Team headed by Dr Jarrod Bailey and had many tasks including selecting grants to fund, researching current literature in the field of non-animal technologies (NATs), and writing articles that promote the uptake of NATs and a shift away from animal research.

During my three-month placement at Animal Free Research UK, the aim was to investigate the main barriers

which prevent researchers from using NATs. I started by tracing the steps that researchers must go through to use animals in research by reading through Non-Technical Summaries submitted to the Home Office, and studying the law surrounding animals in drug and chemical testing.

The most important barriers appeared to be publication of NATs, the reduced level of funding compared to animal studies, and whether the results of human-specific models would be as accurate compared to using animals. However, more and more scientific literature is being published that utilise NATs. And whilst there is less funding in NATs, many politicians are calling for more funding to be invested, indicating a shift towards kinder, more human-relevant research.

Working with Animal Free Research UK was an excellent experience. Not only was this a great opportunity to learn more about animal-free research, but it was interesting to learn about what happens behind the scenes at a charity. Witnessing the collaborations between each department and seeing how everyone works together to achieve one main goal was excellent. My colleagues were genuinely kind and helpful, and it was such a privilege to work together. ”



It is heartening to support students like Lauren and indeed the lifETIME CDT project, and to hear how passionate Lauren and her peers are about their work. It is also beyond delightful to hear that our placement students enjoy their experiences with us, as much as we enjoy working with them. Thank you, Lauren, for your kind words and for all you’ve done and continue to do for animal-free research.

3D model of bone marrow to test drugs for blood cancer



Through the lifETIME CDT project, Professor Matt Dalby and PhD student Lauren Hope at the University of Glasgow are developing a pioneering animal-free model of human bone marrow which will offer a unique solution for overcoming blood cancer drug resistance and finding more effective, reliable and safer treatments through drug testing.

THE PROBLEM

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is a blood cancer that can develop quickly and eventually spread to other parts of the body, including the lymph nodes and the spleen. Adults or children can develop AML but it's most common in older people, with over 40% of new cases in those aged over 75 years. Only 15% of people survive their leukaemia for more than five years after a diagnosis, so more effective ways of treating this disease are urgently needed.

AML is caused by gene faults in haematopoietic stem cells (precursors of mature blood cells) found in the bone marrow (the soft inner part of the bones). This gives rise to abnormal white blood cells that grow and divide too fast and build up in the blood and bone marrow. Sometimes the leukaemic stem cells become 'dormant', stopping their proliferation within the bone marrow which leads to

AML drugs not working – a phenomenon known as drug 'resistance'.

It is due to the bone marrow somehow protecting the cancer cells, but this isn't fully understood. Drug resistance caused by dormancy is a key cause of AML relapse, affecting around half of patients and contributing significantly to the poor survival rate from this disease.

REPLACING ANIMALS IN BLOOD CANCER RESEARCH

Animals, usually mice, are used in AML research. This is not only unethical by inflicting suffering on the animals but there are many differences between humans and animals which means that drugs work differently. Promising findings in animal tests usually don't translate to benefits for patients with around 95% of cancer drug candidates failing in people.

Relying on animal experiments means

that cancer sufferers are being let down because scientists are missing crucial knowledge about how the disease develops as well as potential drug targets. More humane, human-specific, and effective ways of studying AML are urgently needed if we are going to improve survival.

DEVELOPING A 3D BONE MARROW MODEL TO TEST BLOOD CANCER DRUGS

Lauren Hope, a PhD student at the lifETIME CDT (University of Glasgow), is developing a 3D bone marrow model. She's using this model to investigate the role of bone marrow in protecting cancer cells and causing drug resistance, and to test new and currently available drugs for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). Lauren aims to find the best combination of therapies for relapsed AML that can be taken forward to clinical trials.

To create the 3D bone marrow model Lauren is growing AML cells along with HS5 cells – cells that mimic the bone marrow 'niche' within a hydrogel. This is a material that can absorb substances (such as cells), maintain a defined shape and is commonly used for producing contact lenses and wound dressings. When grown together, the two different cells first form a 2D monolayer (a single storey cell layer). The HS5 cells are then grown into 'spheroids' – 3D oval shaped clusters of cells. Within the hydrogel, the spheroids and the AML cells sit within a layer of osteoblasts (bone forming cells) simulating the site where dormant leukaemic stem cells are found.

To create a reproducible model in terms of size and shape, Lauren is using a technique called 3D bioprinting (much like 3D printing). This will enable her to test different drugs multiple times more reliably. In collaboration with other researchers, Lauren has assessed the hydrogel's suitability for growing AML and HS5 spheroids and has evaluated the hydrogel's stability, stiffness, and structure to optimise it for printing.

Using the 3D printed hydrogel, Lauren has tested AML cells with varying doses of fadraciclib, a drug which kills cancer cells by blocking proteins important for their growth. She has also tested this drug in combination with other current AML treatments (venetoclax, azacitidine and cytarabine) and assessed how effectively these drugs killed AML cells. Her results indicate that fadraciclib appears to be an effective AML therapy. She has found that it works most effectively when used in combination with azacitidine.

IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH: BENEFITS FOR HUMANS AND ANIMALS

This pioneering model of the human bone marrow will offer a unique solution to overcome acute myeloid leukaemia drug resistance and to help find the best treatments through drug testing, replacing animal experiments. This will lead to more effective, reliable, and safer treatments, improving patient survival for this devastating disease, whilst saving animal lives.

Spheroids within the hydrogel



In 2022, there were 2.76 million experiments on animals in British laboratories

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 10% compared to 2021 and were the lowest since 2002. But continue reading the figures and the mood darkens.

- Around 15,000 experiments were carried out on specially protected species including cats, dogs, horses and monkeys

- 4,122 experiments used dogs

- 102 experiments used cats

- 2,197 experiments used monkeys

- Great Britain imported almost all (90%) of the monkeys used in experiments from facilities where they were born in Africa or Asia

- 54,696 experiments were assessed as severe

But hope comes in the form of game-changing research.

Human-specific technologies such as artificial intelligence, organ-on-a-chip, and the advanced use of human cells and tissues are at the forefront of scientific innovation. Based directly on human biology, they are not hampered by the pitfalls of translating results from animals to people and offer the best possible chance of achieving medical breakthroughs.

The latest statistics show that in 2022, 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.

Yet, more and more researchers are developing and using non-animal methods to study these areas. At Animal Free Research UK, we are funding scientists who are using and developing human-specific methods to focus on these areas.

Cancer:

Dr Adrian Biddle and his team at the Animal Replacement Centre of Excellence (ARC 1.0) in London are embarking on a project to develop reliable animal-free methods to understand how tumour cells spread and invade other organs of the human body.

Immune system:

Dr Claire Smith and her team at the Institute of Child Health at University College London are developing a new 3D model of the infant lung to accurately mimic the conditions of RSV bronchiolitis, including the immune response, and to improve our understanding of the virus.

Nervous system:

Dr Adjanie Patabendige at Edge Hill University is building on an existing approach which uses human cells to recreate the blood-brain barrier in the lab. By using heart rhythm recordings from patients with irregular heartbeats, she is investigating what happens to the blood-brain barrier when blood flow is altered, helping her to understand how irregular heartbeat leads to brain damage, which increases a person's chance of developing stroke or dementia.

Increasing uptake of human-specific methods

We ran an analysis using Opscidia, an AI tool to analyse scientific publications, and observed that there was a significant increase in publications using organ-on-a-chip technologies between 2010 and 2015, and an increase of publications using AI technology from 2015 to 2020. The emergence of these cutting-edge methods has likely contributed to the overall decrease in animal use since 2015 and as the relevant publication number is still growing, this might suggest an even faster decrease in animal use in the coming years.

Human Specific Technologies Act

We are encouraged by the decrease in animal experiments shown in the statistics and believe this reflects the growing number of scientists who are embracing human-specific technologies. Now we are calling on the Government to take ambitious action to significantly accelerate the pace of change and position Britain as a world leader in human-specific technologies.

Just as the Climate Change Act has facilitated a shift towards more sustainable and future-focused forms of energy, a new legislative framework could support the long-term transition to human-specific technologies. A Human Specific Technologies Act could establish relevant milestones and set out key measures to be taken by the Government, such as developing and maintaining detailed action plans and reporting to Parliament on progress.

Read more about the Human Specific Technologies Act on the next few pages.

Urging Government to embrace human-specific science

To mark World Animal Free Research Day this year, we held a sunny evening reception in Parliament in May, with support from our brilliant host Shadow Minister Ruth Jones MP. Receptions such as these are a great way for us to highlight the benefits of animal free research and engage with MPs and Peers directly in Parliament, where real change is made.



Ruth Jones MP

In a room overlooking the Thames, supportive MPs Giles Watling and Alex Sobel joined Ruth Jones in giving inspiring speeches, each calling on the Government to accelerate the uptake of human-specific technologies in medical research and to move away from animal research. Our Chair of Trustees Professor Geoff Pilkington, CEO Carla Owen and Director of Public Affairs Isobel Martin also delivered engaging speeches to the group of cross-party MPs and Peers.

We were very fortunate to have our much-valued Patron Carol Royle, and vegan businesswoman and influencer Lucy Watson and her partner James Dunmore at the event, who all attended to show their support for our mission and mingle with MPs and Peers. Their work in raising the profile of animal free research is crucial in spreading the word we urgently need the Government to hear.

Alongside them were scientists and experts from Queen Mary University of London, CN Bio Innovations, Keratify and Axol Bioscience, who were invited to showcase their innovative work at stations around the room. In doing so, we gave policymakers a front-row seat to cutting-edge technology, offering them the chance to learn about its use directly from the experts who develop and use it, and hear from them what the Government needs to do to ensure their technologies can flourish in the UK. We were proud to be able to provide this opportunity for MPs and Peers to speak directly to the people who are truly working at the heart of human-specific research.



"The USA has already acted by passing the FDA Modernization Act. It is now more urgent than ever that UK policymakers seize the moment, keep pace with world leaders, and commit to accelerating ethical innovation in the UK." - Lucy Watson



Giles Watling MP, Rachael Maskell MP, Baroness Natalie Bennett and Virendra Sharma MP

At the reception, we also launched our policy briefing – "How Human-Specific Technologies Can Transform Lives and Supercharge the Economy" – which outlines the public health and economic benefits of animal-free research and calls on the Government to take decisive action so Britain can harness its full potential.

After the reception, we have continued to share our briefing and pledge with policymakers - in person and online - encouraging their support for the take-up of our recommendations.

Within this briefing is our call for a Human-Specific Technologies Act. Akin to the Climate Change Act, this Act would serve as a legislative framework that would support the transition to animal-free technologies with timebound action plans and a duty for the Government to report to Parliament on progress. MPs and Peers were given a copy of the briefing and were also invited to sign the pledge to support Ethical Innovation. By signing, policymakers signalled their commitment to helping to drive forward human-specific medical research.

"Advances in science such as organ-on-a-chip and artificial intelligence hold the key to the brighter future we all want. Now is the time to harness the full potential of these technologies and support ethical, animal-free medical research." Carol Royle



It was a brilliant evening with strong support for human-specific research in the room, giving us much to build on in the coming months.



Ruth Jones MP & Alex Sobel MP



Lucy Watson, James Dunmore & CN Bio

Westminster Hall Debate on Human-Specific Technologies

In July, our mission took centre stage in Parliament, where Steve McCabe MP led a Westminster Hall debate on human-specific medical research techniques, championing their benefits for public health, the NHS and the UK economy. After visiting Animal Free Research UK-funded science in Birmingham earlier this year, we were delighted to work with Steve to secure this important debate.

Contributing to the debate with Steve was a cross-party group of MPs. Shadow Minister for Science, Research and Innovation Chi Onwurah MP, and Carol Monaghan MP, SNP Spokesperson for Science Innovation and Technology, both highlighted the need to support the uptake of new cutting-edge technologies. Martyn Day MP, SNP spokesperson for Health and Social Care and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Relevant Science, also spoke in support of an urgent transition to human-specific research.

During his speech, Steve echoed our call for the development of the 'Human-Specific Technologies Act', which was supported by Martyn Day and Carol Monaghan.



Steve McCabe MP

"It is clear to me that we need to act now to reap the benefits of human-specific technologies and secure Britain's place as a global leader in this field. What's more, these innovative new technologies have the potential to give a much-needed boost to the UK economy and offer a lifeline to our NHS. That's why I am calling for the urgent development of the 'Human-Specific Technologies Act' to formalise our commitment to the uptake of these inspiring research techniques."

In Westminster Hall debates, the Government must respond to the topic in question. This time, Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy Paul Scully MP spoke on behalf of the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, outlining their position on human-specific research. Intervening

in Scully's speech, Steve pressed the Minister on whether the Government was committed to a phase-out of animal experiments, to which Scully disappointingly replied that they were committed to the principles of the 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement), and did not commit to a phase-out plan.

It was inspiring to hear speeches from this cross-party group of MPs on animal-free research and to hear our briefing materials being extensively used, as well as our name repeatedly mentioned.

We are proud of the impact our team is making in Parliament to push for a future where medical breakthroughs go hand in hand with kindness and compassion.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Relevant Science Meeting

In June, we held our latest All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Relevant Science meeting, where we heard from Dr Lorna Ewart, Chief Scientific Officer at leading biotech company Emulate. Dr Ewart explained to attendees that Emulate's innovative liver-on-a-chip technology has proven to be more accurate in predicting drug toxicity in humans than animal tests, reducing the risk of harm to patients'

livers, and increasing pharmaceutical companies' productivity.

She was inspiring in her delivery of the message that liver-on-a-chip technology can help get safer medicines to market sooner, and that the Government needed to do more to support the development and uptake of innovative new technologies.

Pledge for Ethical Innovation

We're so grateful for your help in asking MPs to show their support for Ethical Innovation via our online pledge. Through this initiative, MPs have shown their commitment to supporting policies that accelerate the uptake of human-specific technologies and enable Britain to position itself as a global leader in Ethical Innovation.

MPs including Martyn Day, Giles Watling, Caroline Lucas and Grahame Morris have already signed our pledge.

If you haven't already, join us by using our quick and easy tool to email your MP and add your voice to this important call.



SCAN ME

Revolutionising Cancer Treatment

The number of people surviving cancer has doubled in the last 40 years, but the disease is still devastating people and their families, with 1 in 2 UK people diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime and around 167,000 people dying from the disease each year.

In medical research, there's a consensus, both in academia and industry, that promising, early preclinical research findings aren't translating to benefits for cancer patients. The likelihood of a cancer drug being approved and progressing to larger clinical trials is less than 6%.

One of the reasons behind this high failure rate is the over-reliance on findings from unreliable animal experiments. Cancer in humans is unique and something which can't be accurately mimicked using animals, which is why there's an urgent need to develop more human-focused ways of studying cancer to lead to more effective and treatments.

Animal experiments fail to accurately mirror human cancer

Approximately 20 million animals (mostly mice and rats) are used in cancer research globally, with around 200,000 experiments UK labs.

These animal experiments lead to significant and unnecessary suffering for the animals used. The work is also time consuming, costly and the experiments often lead to irrelevant results.

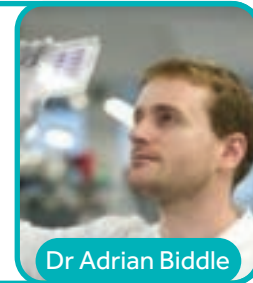
The solution: human focused technologies for human diseases

What's urgently needed is a more human-focused approach to tackling cancer. That's where new approach methodologies or 'NAMs' come in. These technologies enable human tumours to be mimicked more effectively than in animals. They also offer more potential for personalised drug development and testing to better predict how a drug will work in each patient which means more effective therapies, with fewer side effects for patients.

Some examples of NAMs that are being further developed include 3D-bioprinted tumours, patient-derived organoids, tumour-on-chips, artificial intelligence.

Here are some examples of the human-focused cancer research studies that we're currently supporting to help bring about more breakthroughs for cancer patients:

Dr Adrian Biddle, at London University, is developing 3D metastasis-on-a-chip models. He's growing small human tumours which mimic the way cells move out of the tumour and spread. This is known as metastasis and is responsible for around 90% of cancer deaths. Dr Biddle and his team are also developing a new AI tool to better understand and predict metastasis in cancer, ultimately paving the way for new anti-metastatic treatments.



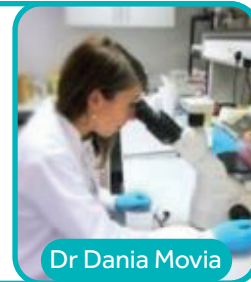
Dr Adrian Biddle

Professor Valerie Speirs and PhD student Celia Rodriguez at Aberdeen University, are developing a humanised organ-chip system to predict the likelihood of different types of breast cancer spreading. This would provide a window to eliminate the disease early, before it invades other tissues and organs, potentially saving many patients' lives.



Celia Rodriguez

Dr Dania Movia, at Trinity College Dublin, is developing a lab model to monitor and detect lung cancer drug resistance earlier. This could enable doctors to switch patients to more effective treatments quickly, vastly improving their outlook. This novel, fully humanised model could pave the way to replacing animals used in lung cancer drug testing, saving many animals' lives.



Dr Dania Movia

Professor Matt Dalby and PhD student Lauren Hope at the Glasgow University are developing a pioneering animal-free model of human bone marrow which will offer a unique solution for overcoming blood cancer drug resistance and finding more effective, reliable and safer treatments through drug testing.



Lauren Hope

Dr Sylwia Ammoun and PhD student Kevin Herrera at Plymouth University, are re-purposing drugs already in clinical use and testing them using an animal-free 'in vitro' approach using lab grown human brain tumour cells, to accelerate progress in uncovering more effective therapies for patients with multiple brain tumours.



Kevin Herrera

FABULOUS FUNDRAISERS

For World Animal Free Research Day in May, the wonderful town of Bude pulled out all the stops once again to show their support.

“ Well, what a fabulous week we had! We kickstarted with two of our members running the Great West 10km. It was a sweltering hot day and both Jo Catling and Mike Hodgetts did it in excellent times. Penny Baxter was planning on running but she injured her knee at the last minute and so her partner, both business and personal, stepped in to save the day, thanks Mike!

We ran the 'Furry Five' colouring competition again this year and there were some strong entries from local schools. Congratulations to Nina, Ailbe and Bella for taking first prizes, and Bailey, Emilia and Poppy the runner up prizes. Bude Primary Academy Juniors, Cheldern Nursey & Preschool and Budehaven Day Nursery were the lucky winners of the gardening hampers donated by Bude Animal Friends and Bellini's Kitchen Deli – well done all!

Bude saw 20 businesses joining in the awareness week which culminated in a sea of turquoise t-shirts on 27th May, such an inspiring sight to behold! Thanks to Widemouth Bay Café, Banfords, Gifts of Bude, Om Bamboo, Just Gentz, Bude Health Store, Trev's Taxi, Bellini's Kitchen Deli, House of Chaplin, The

Wendy House Dog Grooming, WAGs Canine Services, Stable Door Pets, Hazel Crumplin Dog Grooming, Coastal Pets Bude, The Barge, The Donut Hut, Bude Rowing Boats, Steph Jones-Giles – Foot Health Professional, Sally's Animals in Need, Muddy Paws & Waggy Tails. Susanna Kirby Clairvoyant also donated money from readings she had booked that day.

So far this year we have raised a fantastic £1,795.56 which means we have already smashed our £50,000 target since we began.

Onwards and upwards (literally) as staff from Wags Canine Services, Stable Door Pets and The Barge join forces to climb Snowdon in September and group member Jenny Codlin undertakes a sponsored swim in Bude Sea Pool in the same month. 72-year-old Jenny intends to swim 10km in 10 days completing the challenge on 16th September. Watch this space – there's never a dull moment in Bude!

Steph Jones-Giles
Bude Community Ambassador



FABULOUS FUNDRAISERS



Pat, Jenny and Genevieve
Community Ambassadors - London

“ Special thanks to Pat Maxwell who has been an invaluable stalwart of the team since its inception going back over 13 years ago.

Pat collects unwanted and unused gifts from her friends and neighbours, to sell on our stalls for Animal Free Research UK. Pat then packs up her car with it all and brings it along and then anything we don't sell she takes back in the car and unpacks it all by herself.

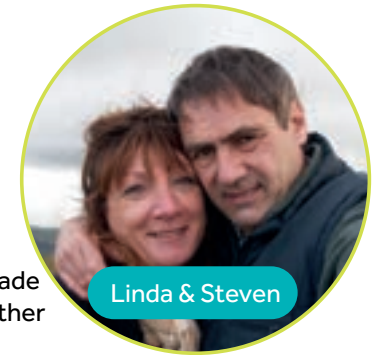
The rest of the team are so grateful to Pat for all she does, so we really wanted her to get a special mention in the newsletter.

A big thank you to Pat from Genevieve, Jenny and the rest of the team. ”



How life can change at a stroke

A supporter of Animal Free Research UK for over 30 years, Steven Liska, has published a book in honour of his wife Linda.



Linda & Steven

“ About 30-years ago, a couple of notable life events happened to me, one was that I met someone who made me much more aware of animal rights issues, and the other was that I needed surgery and treatment for cancer.

Then in 1994 I heard about the Dr.Hadwen trust, and took part in their 'Walk for Laboratory Animals'. Their quest for alternatives to animal testing was therefore highly relevant to my situation, and although I supported several other organisations, they became the most important for me to try to help. This included sending Christmas parcels from the Hitchin office, and organising a couple of rock concerts at a local village hall.

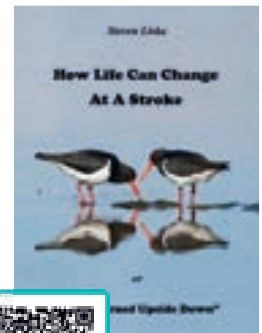
Moving forward to 2007, I met my future wife Linda, who was as healthy as she was lovely, although four and half years later it turned out that she was harbouring a serious heart condition in the form of Atrial Fibrillation. This caused the massive stroke that she suffered in December 2011, the consequences of which I decided to write about, resulting in the book 'How life can change at a stroke'.

My initial motivation was simply to make a record of how such an event can change people's lives, but I then thought that if it actually sold any copies then the proceeds should go to Animal Free Research UK.

I hope that anyone who reads it will find it interesting and informative, and if they like dogs, music and motorcycles they'll be especially pleased, but ultimately I hope that stroke treatment can also benefit more from humane testing and research. ”

Steven will generously donate all proceeds from book sales to Animal Free Research UK to help continue to fund lifesaving research, so please use the QR code below to find out more and purchase the book.

And if you're wondering why there is a picture of Oystercatchers on the cover, it's because after many years of trying to improve her speech and her vocabulary, and inspired by the fabulous shore birds of the North Wales coast, the first four-syllable word that Linda managed to say was 'Oystercatcher'.



SCAN ME

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

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And so far our amazing supporters have already raised nearly £8,500 for Animal Free Research UK!

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giftaid it

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SCAN ME

What will you leave behind?



What legacy would you like to leave to future generations?

During our lifetime we each support charitable causes that are close to our hearts - those with which we share our values and beliefs. We see cruelty or injustice - and we are compelled to connect with likeminded people who also want a more compassionate future to become a reality.

The same is true after life: leaving a gift in your will is simply a continuation of those same values and experiences held so dear during life.

Because of this, and wanting to provide for family or friends, your will is one of the most important legal documents you will ever sign - and one of the most heartfelt demonstrations of support that an individual can make to a charity.

“Thankfully, the wheels are now turning towards humane methods of research and I want to be a part of that change, even after my life has ended, so leaving a legacy to Animal Free Research UK is the best way for me to achieve that.”

Rosemary, a committed proud supporter and legacy pledger.

After providing for your friends and family, we hope you'll consider including a gift in your will to Animal Free Research UK. Thank you.

For more information about Leaving a Legacy, please visit our website: www.animalfreeresearchuk.org/leave-a-legacy

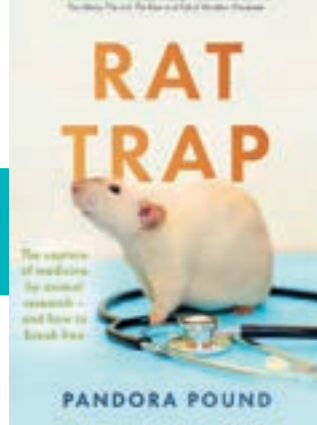
Should you wish to discuss this further or have any queries relating to leaving a gift in your will, please contact legacies@animalfreeresearchuk.org



SCAN ME

Rat Trap: The capture of medicine by animal research and how to break free

If you've ever wondered how – and why – it's become the norm to use animals in medical research then get ready for a powerful book, published this autumn, by Dr Pandora Pound of Safer Medicines Trust.



Rat Trap is a compelling tale about the rise of animal research, and its inevitable fall – which is finally showing the first signs of decline thanks to the animal-free technologies you support.

Dr Pound tackles the age-old question of who benefits from the use of animals in research, using compelling evidence and sound science to debunk the myth that it's essential for human wellbeing.

She interviews scientists at the forefront of the charge to the brighter future we all want to see, including our own Dr Jarrod Bailey, Prof Geoff Pilkington and Prof Lorna Harries who describe the brilliant new technologies already helping to make new medicines more effective.



Dr Pandora Pound

Dr Pound is an eminent voice in the field. She published a study in 2004 in the prestigious British Medical Journal called, 'Where is the evidence that animal research benefits humans?'. It provoked a storm of controversy – and a series of scientific cases revealing the lack of translation from animals to humans in medical research. Now, in Rat Trap she brings this work up to date, giving us the latest scoop on what she sees as the impending demise of science's sacred cow.

You certainly don't need to be a scientist or expert to enjoy this fascinating book, which is packed full of intelligent reasoning, fresh insights and first-hand experience. I thought I knew the history of this most urgent and controversial issue but came away with my eyes opened wider than ever.

If you want to speak up, armed with sage arguments that end the debate for animal research once and for all, read this now! I heartily recommend it.

Carla Owen, CEO



Available from 28 August, you can buy a copy at Amazon or follow the QR code on the right. And do leave a review if you can.