

Quarterly Update

Our colleague Bella Lear will shortly be leaving the UK for Australia to take up the position of Director of UAR Oceania. Bella has been one of the main people from our team visiting you, our members. This pleasant job is being distributed around the team and we will soon be contacting you to arrange a meeting. You can of course contact us at any time if you need our support, help or advice.

Understanding Animal Research Oceania



Understanding Animal Research Oceania is now up and running, providing UAR's support and services to affiliated organisations in the Oceania region. We would like to extend a big welcome to UAR Oceania's newly affiliated members in Australia and New Zealand.

UAR Oceania is using UAR's resources to support open conversations about animal research, directly challenging misconceptions and misinformation, while encouraging excellent science communication.

UAR Oceania will be operating from offices in central Melbourne, Victoria, Australia from the beginning of April 2023. Following the launch of New Zealand's transparency agreement in 2021, and with the Australian transparency agreement anticipated very soon, UAR Oceania will be able to provide expert and timely communications support to Oceania's research organisations.

During 2023 UAR Oceania will be running workshops to support openness by giving researchers, technicians and their colleagues the tools to engage confidently about animal research. Our popular workshop "Engaging the public on

animal research" will be running in person across the Oceania region in 2023 and we are looking for hosts. If you would see like to see this workshop run in person at your institution in Australia or New Zealand please contact Bella Lear on ajlear@uaroceania.org

New UAR staff

We are delighted to welcome Hansika Ramchandani to the team as our new Communications Officer. As well as working on UAR's social media, Hansika will be supporting the Concordat and member engagement.

Hansika received an MLitt in Media & Communication with Distinction from the University of Strathclyde in September 2022. A pop culture enthusiast, she is an avid reader and enjoys discussing film & TV in her free time.



UAR social media update

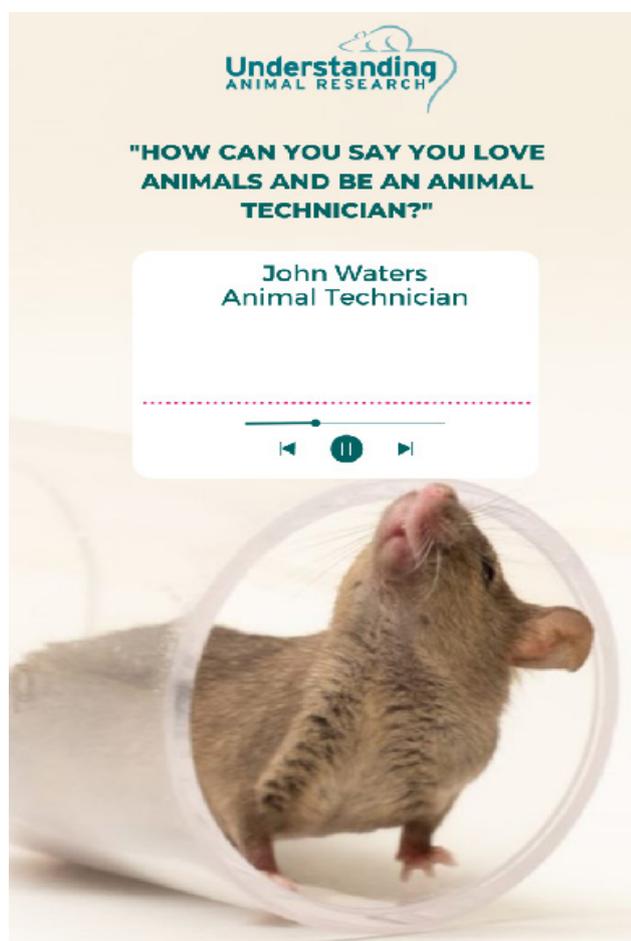
Between Monday 8 May and Friday 12 May 2023, we will be hosting our annual #MiceInResearch social media campaign across Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook. The purpose of #MiceInResearch is to encourage Concordat signatories to share information about the use of mice in scientific research, as well as general information on their care and welfare in the laboratory, and their contributions to scientific

research. The campaign also serves as a great way to collate a large volume of evidence on the importance of mice in scientific research by searching #MiceInResearch on Twitter.

We are pleased that #MiceInResearch remains a popular campaign and we hope to continue our tradition of seeing a variety of videos, photos, infographics and other types of content focused on how and why mice are an integral part of scientific research in the UK.

More information about the specific events we have planned for this week will be shared closer to the event.

How can you say you love animals and be an animal technician?



We are always looking for new ways to share information, which is why we have begun an audio clip video series that will be posted on Instagram and other UAR social media channels.

We are extracting interesting excerpts from our regular interviews, which are carried out when producing UAR articles, to create engaging videos that can be used to promote our web content and

drive traffic to the UAR website.

Our first audio clip video featuring John Waters, Chief Animal Technician at the University of Liverpool for more than 30 years, has been well received and can be seen on UAR's Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

John's quotes about his time as an animal technician were part of the UAR article "A career devoted to caring for lab animals" which we produced as part of February's IAT Tech Month celebrations.

Policy update

UAR is approaching MPs individually and via all-party groups to address misinformation of various sorts as animal rights groups redouble their initiatives ahead of the next election. Lobbyists across all sectors are focused on Labour's next manifesto, but the Camp Beagle nexus is also redirecting some of its supporters' efforts to approaching their local MPs to speak in debates. The SNP is decidedly opposed to animal experiments, as are the Greens. The two main parties both have a rump of 20 to 30 MPs sympathetic to the animal rights message.

UAR is also responding to a government consultation on a presumption of *in vitro* tests for chemicals testing, and a Parliamentary inquiry into lessons from COVID-19.

Another flawed petition, another woefully misinformed debate in Parliament

UAR has written an article in response to misinformation appearing in a Parliamentary debate. The top eight myths rehearsed during the debate were familiar misconceptions manufactured by activists. Yet again the high rate of drug attrition during the drug discovery process was blamed on animal models. Others claimed experiments are waved through by regulators and even asserted that the development of penicillin was delayed by animal data rather than the well-documented history where the problems were with obtaining penicillin with sufficient purity and in enough quantity for the people desperate for treatment.

The article is a useful resource for UAR members who come across these myths. Additionally, UAR is going to publish a series of articles on the drug discovery process, explaining where animals and non-animal technologies fit in, so that our members can direct enquiring members of the public to a clear and accurate explanation.

Coordinating responses to animal rights activism: how you can help



A large part of UAR's work aims to maintain a supportive operating environment for the use of animals in scientific research in the UK. The rise in animal rights activism over the last two years is a potential threat to that operating environment and we have convened a UK Animal Research Group to help counter the threat. This Group comprises representatives from many of our member organisations - if you would like to know more, please get in touch with Wendy: wjarrett@uar.org.uk

With the help of the Group, we have met with senior civil servants, coordinated letters to Ministers, held meetings with Police and Crime Commissioners and have timetabled a webinar for Gold and Silver Commanders from police forces around the country.

We are also writing to MPs and planning a Parliamentary meeting for politicians to help them understand why and how animals are used in UK scientific research.

The tactics of animal rights protestors are continually evolving, but some activities remain popular: protests at university open days; requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act; letter writing and email campaigns targeting senior figures in industry and academia; malicious phone calls; petitions, and disruption of meetings and events.

We offer a reduced rate weekly Animal Rights Bulletin, supplied by Horus Security Consultancy Ltd, reporting on animal rights activism and comments on social media. If you would like to subscribe to this bulletin, please get in touch.

If you experience any animal rights activity at or against your organisation, please let us know about it. We can provide advice on managing protests, dealing with media interest, coordinating responses

to FOI requests and drafting responses to letter writing campaigns. It is also very helpful for us to collate all examples of activism so that we can make sure that the right people in government know what is going on and we can ask for action when necessary. Any instance of animal rights activism can be reported to Hannah: hhobson@uar.org.uk

Save the dates

• Online communications workshops

This March we are running a series of online communications workshops via Zoom. These workshops are shortened versions of our full-day training sessions. We will be running our full-day workshops later in the year. These online sessions are intended for those unable to travel to London.

UAR members can attend our virtual workshops for free. If you would like to register, please contact Hansika: hramchandani@uar.org.uk

• How can individuals use social media?

Wednesday 29 March (11:00 to Midday)

Do you want to talk about your work via your personal social media but don't know where to begin? Do you want to respond to misinformation online but are worried about receiving negative comments?

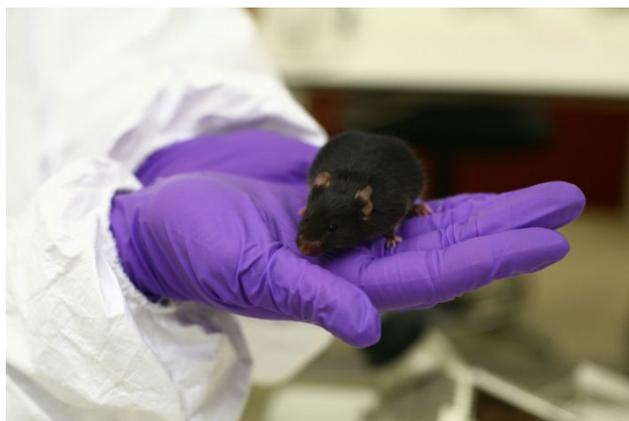
The aim of this workshop is to make you feel comfortable talking online about your work involving animals and to give you an opportunity to put our guidance into practice.

We will share practical advice on how to use your social media accounts to make key points about why animals are used in research, how you can support the community by correcting misinformation, and what you can do if you experience a negative reaction.

• Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD)

Thursday 20 April

BRAD is an international outreach program developed by Americans for Medical Progress that seeks to increase public awareness of the use of animals in biomedical research and the resulting medical advancements that benefit both humans and animals. No registration is needed, and participation can be on an individual or institutional level. More information can be found at www.bradglobal.org



• **World Day for Animals in Labs | World Laboratory Animal Liberation Week**

Monday 24 April | Monday 24 to Sunday 30 April

These awareness events are run by animal rights activists and are usually accompanied by protests, increased social media activity, and other forms of campaigning.

• **#MiceInResearch week**

Monday 8 May to Friday 12 May

• **Concordat on Openness workshop**

Wednesday 10 May

Our annual Concordat workshop is an opportunity for signatories to get together, share ideas, and celebrate the achievements of the Concordat. This year we will be hearing from a range of Concordat signatories via four different panel discussions:

- Openness in a time of increased animal rights activism
- What are non-research organisations doing to support openness?
- How to communicate harms
- Overcoming hurdles within pharma and CROs

For more information, please contact Hannah at hhobson@uar.org.uk

• **Be Open About Animal Research Day (BOARD)**

Thursday 15 June

BOARD is a global 24-hour social media campaign, supported by the European Animal Research Association (EARA), and the wider biomedical community. This worldwide initiative welcomes all institutions aiming to celebrate the increasingly

proactive approach by the biomedical community in communicating animal research. To enrol your organisation/institution on the 'Get on #BOARD23' campaign, please contact Gege Li at gli@eara.eu

• **UAR Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 29 June (14:00 to 19:00), 41 Portland Place, London

• **In July: Animal Research Statistics**

This July we plan to publish our annual list of the organisations that carry out the most animal research in the UK to accompany the release of Great Britain's annual animal research statistics. We will also be encouraging UAR Members and Concordat signatories to take part in our annual #AnimalStats social media campaign.

UNDERSTANDING ANIMAL RESEARCH

**Animal Research Statistics
Great Britain, 2021**

Most commonly used animals

Mice	Fish	Birds	Rats
2,084,109	424,134	243,153	197,474
Sheep	Amphibians	Rabbits	Cattle
51,690	10,874	8,970	5,128

Now is a great time to consider how you would like to display your 2022 statistics. Most research organisations are highlighting the number of procedures carried out on individual species, with many also including severity details. If you are a funder, you can report the proportion of your research grants that involved animals, and which species these included.

If you'd like advice on displaying your statistics online or via social media, contact Hannah (hhobson@uar.org.uk).

• **Openness Awards and 86th Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture**

Monday 4 December (18:00 to 22:00), Royal College of Physicians, London

The Paget Lecture will be given by Amrita Ahluwalia, Professor of Vascular Pharmacology and Director of The Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Unit at The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, and Editor-In-Chief, British Journal of Pharmacology.