

Quarterly Update

We report two new initiatives in this QU. UAR is going down under as we launch UAR Oceania to support researchers in Australia and New Zealand. Nearer to home, UAR has launched an animal rights activism monitoring service. Please contact us for details.

UAR's 2022 Annual General Meeting



It was lovely to hold our Annual Meeting in person again on 30 June, after two years of virtual events. Attendees approved the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts and elected seven members to UAR Council: Elaine Emmerson, Nienke Fishwick, Sabrina Lau, Mary McElroy and Chris Petkov were elected for an initial term of three years while Tim Sampson and Stephen Woodley were re-elected for a second three-year term.

The UAR team was able to update attendees on our work over the past year – much of it focused on the upturn in animal rights activism driven by Camp Beagle – and set out our plans for the next year.

We also ran two short 'taster' workshops, 30-minute versions of the sessions we run for member organisations, on talking about animal research on social media and resilience in the face of people hostile to the use of animals in research. The meeting finished with a farewell and many thanks to Claire Cockcroft, Paul Finnemore, Gill

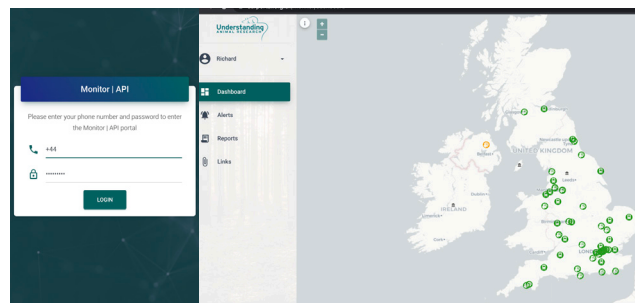
Fleetwood, Anna Mitchell and Geoff Watts, who stepped down from UAR Council. We are very grateful for all the support and advice they have given us over the years.

2022 Paget Lecture and Openness Awards

We hope you have the evening of 5 December saved in your diaries for our annual Paget Lecture and Openness Awards event.

The Awards are a great opportunity to celebrate the most impressive examples of communications and engagement around the use of animals in research, and we are delighted that Professor Cherry Wainwright from Robert Gordon University will be giving the lecture 'Getting to the Heart of the Matter: How animal research has helped us understand and treat cardiovascular disease'. We'll round the evening off with a drinks and canapés reception. Invitations for the event will arrive in early September – look out for yours and do let us know if you'd like to attend and haven't received an invitation.

Animal rights activism monitoring service



As animal rights protests and activism continue to increase in the UK, UAR has partnered with Horus Security Consultancy Ltd to offer

our member organisations a weekly activism monitoring bulletin. This was launched to replace the previous Support4RS offering which stopped in March of this year. Many of our members are large organisations with extensive security and monitoring systems already in place, but many do not have the budget available for this scale of provision and several asked us if we could fill the gap left by the Support4RS cancellation. We were therefore very grateful to Horus for allowing us to offer a reduced-price service for our members.

Thanks to Agenda Resource Management, we are also able to offer subscribers to the weekly bulletin a reduced rate for pre-employment screening of new staff. If you would like further details about the bulletin and pre-employment screening, please contact Wendy wjarrett@uar.org.uk

Public order bill

A Public Order Bill will introduce new police powers over disruptive protests, which were blocked by the House of Lords earlier this year as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 that became law in April.

Introducing the legislation this way means that the government can use its Parliamentary majority to force it through the Commons. Inspired by the disruption caused by groups like Insulate Britain and Extinction Rebellion, new legislation could keep pace with protesters' evolving tactics. This could have an impact on situations such as the protest camp outside MBR Acres, which has combined new and old campaigning tactics and tested the limits of existing legislation.

New offences such as 'locking on' to gates and 'serious disruption prevention orders' will come into force as part of the Public Order Bill – imposing conditions on repeat offenders. Fines for disruption will become unlimited and many offences will attract a prison term.

The Policing Act itself allows the police to put more conditions on static protests, such as those organised by Extinction Rebellion where roads and bridges are occupied.

The police are now able to:

- Impose a start and finish time
- Set noise limits
- Apply these rules to a demonstration by just one person

Theoretically, if a single individual were holding a placard while sharing their views via a loudspeaker, and refused to follow police directions about how

they should conduct their protest, they could be fined up to £2,500.

It is also now a crime to fail to follow restrictions the protesters 'ought' to have known about, even if they have not received a direct order from an officer. Previously, police have needed to prove that protesters knew they had been told to move on, before they could be said to have broken the law.

The new law also includes an offence of 'intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance', which is designed to stop people occupying public spaces, hanging off bridges or employing other similar tactics.

New ASRU Policy Unit

The Animals in Science Regulation Unit now has separate functions for the day-to-day delivery of its legal obligations and the wider policy questions around how best to regulate.

The Animals in Science Committee is now being pressed into service to investigate discrete areas where non-animal technologies might be applied in future. For instance, non-animal approaches might be useful for some applications but not others and these exercises may help to determine where more work is needed to make alternatives fit for purpose.

There may also be issues applying alternatives in the real world and ASRU hopes that its new structure will help to further promote the 3Rs in UK regulation.

Animal Sentience Committee

Last year's Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act created a requirement for a new committee to ensure that policymaking takes 'due regard' to animal sentience. The committee's membership is due to be announced shortly.

It would be very difficult to argue that current animal research regulations do not give due regard to animal sentience, but there is always the chance that more extreme voices might try. A letter to UAR from Lord Goldsmith received earlier this year promises that "*this Bill is there to improve the policy decision making process. It does not change existing legislation, nor does it impose any new restrictions on current practices, individuals or businesses.*"

It is reasonable to expect decapod crustaceans to come under ASPA in due course, given a review of their sentience that coincided with the Act's passage, yet this is not as a result of the Act.

UAR Oceania

We are excited to share that our new association, Understanding Animal Research Oceania, was launched in July 2022. UAR Oceania will help people to understand how animal-based research and teaching benefits society and will be able to focus fully on issues relevant to the Oceania research landscape.

The new organisation will operate in a similar fashion to UAR, using our existing resources and strategy to deliver communications support to the Oceania region. It will also establish a local team and programme of work to provide timely communications support where it is most needed.

Our colleagues carrying out animal-based research in Oceania have been part of UAR's membership since we launched in 2009, but social, political and geographic separation mean there are challenges to providing suitable, timely support. In July 2021 New Zealand launched an Openness agreement committing supporting institutions to proactive communication about how and why animals are used in research and teaching, and Australia has a similar framework in development. But until now there has been no regional organisation dedicated to public communication around the use of animals in research. The value of specialist organisations that provide communications support for formal transparency agreements has been recognised by the countries that have adopted this approach.

UAR Oceania will provide support with public communication, messaging and advocacy for animal research and teaching organisations. It will work with research, funding and supplier organisations to shape their messaging and to build visibility and the confidence to communicate proactively about the animal-based research they support. This will include the development of long-term, sustainable, grassroots information and education campaigns. Where there is a need for a coordinated position to counter misinformation, or to support the supply chain and licence to operate of scientific organisations, UAR Oceania will work with other relevant groups to develop a response.

UAR Oceania is now seeking expressions of interest and support from stakeholders and potential members who would like to play a key role in developing this new organisation from the ground up. To express interest in becoming a founding member, or to make a donation to support UAR Oceania, visit www.uarioceania.org. For more information about the new organisation contact Bella Lear at awilliams@uar.org.uk

Education and outreach

Summer has brought travel back to the education and outreach team, although not as much as we would have liked with a planned workshop in Newcastle postponed not just once but twice as trains were brought to a standstill by industrial action and then global warming.

We began the summer with a trip to Marseille where we co-presented a session on communication and outreach to a large and lively group, including – as we discovered later – a well-known French animal rights activist. Later we travelled to Southampton and Belfast where we inducted new groups of volunteers to work as school Ambassadors. They will be joined in the new term by Ambassadors from Leicester, Newcastle and Cardiff.

A live session at the Science Insights summer school at Edinburgh University, the first since the shutdown, explored the ethics of animal research with a group of future scientists and we ran a similar afternoon session at Imperial College summer school.

Online, we contributed once more to the In2Science online workshop series for hard-to-reach students and ran sessions with the Rochford Hospital Adolescent Unit. Another online event, a Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) project with AstraZeneca has been put into motion with the first session booked for September with others likely to follow since interest from schools outstripped our capacity to manage in one event.

Behind the scenes at the Francis Crick Institute

Ten years ago we filmed *The day in the Life of an Animal Technologist* at Kings College London. This film is one of our most viewed, receiving another 466 views on YouTube in the last month alone, which brings its total to 89,731 views on YouTube since it was uploaded in March 2012.

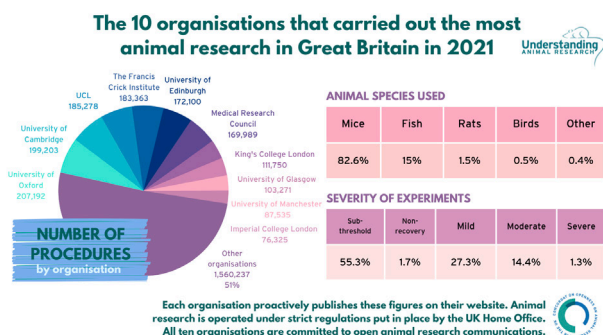
In the film, we didn't show the face of the animal technologist we filmed because people were still concerned about negative responses from certain sections of the public.

Ten years later we thought we needed an equivalent film and so we approached the Francis Crick Institute where we later filmed *Behind the scenes at the Francis Crick Institute*. This time two senior animal techs, Caroline Zverev and Jamie Barrett, introduced themselves and led a tour of some of the animal facilities.

The resources and science at the Crick are much too extensive to be fully encompassed in a short film but in the eight minutes we see mice, ferrets and opossums in research into cancer, flu, and COVID amongst other conditions.

We hope you take a look at this film and ideally share the link. If you have an idea for something you would like filmed in your own institution please feel free to get in touch with us by emailing or phoning our film maker: rscrase@uar.org.uk / 44 778 779 4250.

Animal research statistics for Great Britain, 2021



On 30 June, the government released its statistics on the number of animals used in scientific research in 2021. The figures show that 3,056,243 procedures were carried out, 6% more than in 2020.

An increase in animal procedures was not unexpected. Due to various COVID-19 lockdowns, animal procedures in 2020 decreased by 15% compared to 2019, the lowest number since 2004. If we compare the 2021 figures against the 2019 figures, the total number of procedures decreased by 10%.

Over 96% of the procedures were carried out in mice, fish, rats, and birds, whereas cats, dogs, and primates accounted for 0.2% of all procedures in 2021.

As usual, we worked with the ten organisations that carried out the most animal research to proactively press release a top ten list.

These ten organisations carried out 1,496,006 procedures, 49% or nearly half of the 3,056,243 procedures carried out on animals for scientific research in Great Britain in 2021. Of these 1,496,006 procedures, more than 99% were carried out in mice, fish, and rats, and 83% were classified as mild or sub-threshold.

On the morning of the Home Office's report publication, the Science Media Centre circulated our top ten press release, along with an analysis on

the national statistics from Professor Nic Wells. The press release was picked up by PA and appeared in the Independent. The article included our top ten list, UAR quote, images taken directly from UAR's Twitter account, and Nic's analysis. The article also mentioned that 63 organisations had proactively published their 2021 statistics on their websites, another fact taken from our press release.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/great-britain-data-home-office-wales-scotland-b2112849.html>

We also asked our Concordat signatories to share their own animal research statistics on social media in coordination with the report publication, using the hashtag #AnimalStats. The hashtag was deployed by 29 different users, across 53 Tweets.

Sign up for UAR training this autumn

This autumn, UAR is running a series of communications workshops at the Francis Crick Institute (FCI) and UAR office in London.

The following workshops are free for up to 4 staff from UAR member organisations per year:

Debates and arguments: arguing science in the media and beyond - You will learn structures, principles and techniques which will allow you to debate and argue a scientific issue.

At the FCI on Friday 23 September, 10am - 4pm

Media training for researchers - the 'how' and 'what' of animal research - Participants will rehearse being interviewed on camera so that they are competent and confident to talk about their research on TV and radio.

UAR office on Thursday 20 October, 10am - 4pm

Opening up: engaging with the public on animal research

This workshop is for those whose work involves the use of animals in research and who want to feel more confident to talk about it with those outside the lab.

At the FCI on Wednesday 30 November, 10am - 4pm

Telling stories online using social media, websites, and video

This workshop is about communicating animal research online. UAR will guide you through telling stories about animal research via websites and social media, and on how you can use your smartphone to make short videos. You will need to bring a smartphone and a laptop to the workshop.

At the FCI on Friday 2 December, 10am - 4pm

If you would like to sign up for a session, please get in touch with Bella at awilliams@uar.org.uk