



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Maintain the excellence of Europe in science by preserving the use of animals in research

Statement by the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) calls upon the unrelenting support of European Union policymakers for medical research in Europe, including when this implies animal testing.

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) supports the use of animals to enable the development of treatments for both humans and animals and states its commitment for the 2010/63/EU Directive. We urge the European Parliament and Commission to oppose the 'Stop Vivisection Citizens' Initiative and to reaffirm their support for the 2010/63/EU Directive.

According to the "Stop Vivisection" Citizens' Initiative, animal vivisection poses a danger to human health and the environment, constitutes a hindrance to the development of new methods in biomedical research and poses an obstacle to tapping into much more reliable, relevant, cheaper and more efficient research methods, provided by new technologies expressly conceived for humans.¹

These arguments are inaccurate and dangerously diminish the relevance of animal testing:

- › **Animal research is essential in drug development and safety testing prior to human clinical trials and contributed to as much as 70% of the Nobel prizes for physiology and medicine.**²

Breakthroughs for the treatment of chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, brain disorders, arthritis and infections were only possible thanks to animal experimentation. Research applied to animals also allowed major advancements in immunisation and transplantation. Examples of medical advances thanks to animal research include the most recent (1990s) combined therapy for HIV infection, meningitis vaccines and medicines for breast and prostate cancer. Ongoing studies using stem cells for heart and spinal cord repair would be impossible without animal testing.

- › **Animal research is highly regulated and controlled by EU law.**

As a consequence the animal welfare standards in the EU have significantly improved over the years, while continuing to serve scientific and societal interests. In particular, the 2010/63/EU Directive contributes to safeguarding the welfare of animals used for scientific purposes, while at the same time allowing reducing the impact of research on animals. In line with the 3Rs principle, researchers are encouraged to *reduce* the number of animal used in experiments, *refine* the experiment or the way the animals

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/documents/43>

² <http://speakingofresearch.com/>

Executive Committee

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are cared for so as to reduce their suffering and *replace* experiments on animals with alternative techniques help create the balance between animal welfare and medical research.

The Alliance for Biomedical Research therefore urges the European Parliament and the Commission to maintain their support for biomedical and health research, under strict animal welfare regulations and the highest ethical framework as provided under the current EU regulations, and to reject the 'Stop Vivisection' Citizens' Initiative.

Karin Sipido,

President of the Alliance of Biomedical Research in Europe

About The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) is a consortium of 21 member organizations, representing over 400 000 researchers and health professionals. The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) was founded by four major European academic medical societies namely the European Cancer Association (ECCO), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). The BioMed Alliance is committed through its actions to promote excellence in European biomedical research and innovation with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens.

BioMed Alliance's members

European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS), European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS), European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), European Academy of Neurology (EAN), European Hematology Association (EHA), European League Against Rheumatism, (EULAR), European Respiratory Society (ERS), European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), European Society of Anaesthesiology (ESA), European Society of Cardiology (ESC), European Society of Hypertension (ESH), European Society of Radiology (ESR), European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), United European Gastroenterology (UEG), European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), European Society of Pathology (ESP)

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