

CONCORDAT ON OPENNESS NEWS

Welcome to the second instalment of the Concordat on Openness newsletter. This newsletter of all things Concordat related will let you know what's going on at UAR and what our Concordat signatories have been up to.

Whilst the Concordat is at the forefront of our minds every day, we recognise that it is only a small part of your job. We hope this newsletter will inspire your organisation to keep up the momentum surrounding Openness, by sharing recent examples of engagement activities from a variety of signatory institutions.



New Concordat signatories

We recently welcomed the University of East Anglia as a Concordat signatory, bringing the total number to 117.



Concordat Annual Report

Last month we published the third Concordat report. The report focuses on the impacts of the Concordat since its launch in May 2014.



Openness Awards

On 4th December we hosted the fourth annual Openness Awards, and 81st Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture, which was delivered by Professor Clive Page.



Signatory news

Over the last four months we've seen signatories update their websites, produce animal research reports, and press release their animal statistics.

Get involved with the next newsletter

If you or your organisation have any examples of Openness activities that you would like to share in the next newsletter please get in touch with Hannah Hobson. This newsletter is an opportunity to share media stories, new websites, and engagement activities relating to animal research with the rest of the sector.

www.ConcordatOpenness.org

Openness Awards and Paget Lecture

On 4th December, at the Wellcome Collection in London, the life-science community came together to celebrate the fourth annual Openness Awards and the 81st Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture.

Dr Judy MacArthur Clark presented the Internal or Sector Engagement Award to the [Babraham Institute](#) for its [partnership](#) with the Sophianum School in the Netherlands. Students had to design and create solutions to challenging problems, such as creating more effective mouse cages.

Professor Clare Stanford presented the Public Engagement Activity Award to [MRC Harwell](#), [The Pirbright Institute](#), [University of Bristol](#), and [University of Oxford](#) for opening their labs to 360 degree cameras so the virtual [Lab Animal Tour](#) could be made. Tony Davidge, from [Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute](#), was highly commended for his role in introducing local school children to the ethical and practical issues associated with animal research.

Professor David Webb presented the Media Engagement or Media Stories Award to [King's College London](#) for its eager involvement in the BBC3 documentary '[The Monkey Lab](#)', allowing cameras in to see its marmosets. Harry Dayantis, previously of UCL, was highly commended for his role in bringing ten universities together to [press release their 2015 animal numbers](#).

Professor David Eisner presented the Website or Use of New Media Award to [University of Cambridge](#) for its videos explaining how animals, including non-human primates, are used to [understand and treat OCD](#).

Professor Clive Page presented UAR's Individual Award for Outstanding Contribution to Openness in Animal Research to the BBC's Rachael Buchanan and Fergus Walsh for their time and persistence in getting access and filming laboratory animals and subsequent balanced reporting at a time when 'animal research' evoked a knee-jerk response from much of the public and media.



Following the awards, [Professor Clive Page](#), Director of the Sackler Institute of Pulmonary Pharmacology, King's College London, delivered the 81st Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture, 'How animals have helped with the discovery and development of drugs for the treatment of asthma and COPD'. A video of the lecture is available [online](#).

Ask a Scientist, Anything

To mark World Alzheimer's Month, UAR organised a Reddit 'Ask Me Anything' (AMA) with Dr Mark Dallas on Wednesday 20th September. Mark is a Lecturer in Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience at the School of Pharmacy, University of Reading and Academic Co-ordinator for the Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Network, Neuroscience Theme Lead for the Physiological Society and on the editorial board of Physiology News. His main research interest is working to understand the mechanism by which our brains change, leading to devastating diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The AMA was up-voted over 300 times, and nearly 100 questions were submitted by Reddit users, covering a variety of topics including in-depth queries about Mark's research, general questions about Alzheimer's and prevention, and questions about the use of animals in research. Mark responded to 17 Reddit users during the session, including a question about the misconceptions surrounding animal research. He also spoke about the importance of Openness and how he uses GM animal models in his work.

Get involved with Reddit

A Reddit AMA is an excellent public engagement tool that can be used to promote awareness events, new publications, or highlight a specific area of research. If you have an idea for a session, or know a researcher who would like to participate, contact UAR as we can organise and facilitate the entire process.



Third Concordat Annual Report

This December, UAR published the third annual Concordat report. The report focuses on the impacts of the Concordat since its launch in May 2014. The Concordat has been a huge success, both internally amongst organisations, and externally in the public domain.

Within organisations, the Concordat has raised the profile of animal research and welfare, enabling more open conversations to take place and giving research staff and technicians greater confidence to speak about what they do. Within the life-science sector the Concordat has inspired collaborations between institutions, and challenged the fears associated with speaking about animal research, to reflect a society where the voices against using animals in science are becoming more reasoned and less aggressive. For wider-society, the Concordat has provided better access to information about animals in research. This has led to a greater understanding of the role of animal care staff, enabling interested public to see inside facilities, and more considered news stories on the use of animals in research.

Openness Case Studies

Concordat signatories have been busy updating their websites, producing animal research reports, and press releasing their animal statistics.

Website updates

The University of Bath has assembled its animal research information into a “Collection” called “[Animal Research](#)” on the main website. This is a significant improvement as all information related to animal research is now in one easily accessible location. Previously, although there was a direct link to the policy statement, other information relating to their animal statistics and research was more difficult to find. The University has several research “case studies”, written by its researchers, with one linking to a Reuters’ video filmed in its animal facility. Any news items involving animal research that are posted on the website also provide a link to the Collection.

From University of Bath

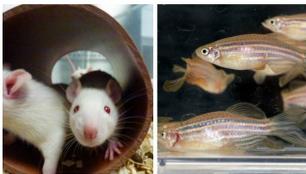


Animal research

How and why we use animals in some of our research and teaching, and how we make sure we keep to the highest ethical standards.

Policies, codes and procedures

Our policy statement on animal research, the procedure for ethical review and the code of ethical practice we follow.



[Animal research: policy statement](#)

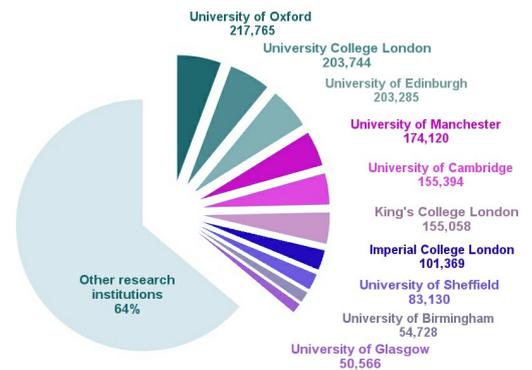
How we approach research involving animals, including regulations we follow, our ethical review process and the animal species we use in our research.

POLICY

A suite of new information web pages has been launched by the [University of Leeds](#), to explain the way it uses animals in research. The pages include non-technical summaries of current project licences held by the University. The pages also highlight the University’s policy on the use of animals and the regulatory framework which all researchers must adhere to. The minutes of the University’s animal welfare and ethical review committee meeting are also available.

Animal Numbers

The ten universities accounting for one third of animal research in the UK



During November, the ten universities which conducted the most animal procedures in the UK during 2016 publicised their figures. They collectively conducted a third of all UK animal research that year, completing a combined total of 1.4 million procedures. Over 99% of these procedures were carried out on rodents or fish, and in line with national data they were almost evenly split between experimental work and the breeding of genetically modified animals. This is the second year in a row universities have come together to collectively publicise their numbers and examples of their research.

Our research on animals



- [1. Why we use animals for research](#)
- [2. Animals in research policy](#)
- [3. Our research on animals](#)**
- [4. Animal research: the regulatory framework](#)
- [5. Our arrangements for animal care and welfare](#)
- [6. Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee](#)

Below are some examples of medical or scientific progress achieved through the use of animals:

- [Scientists collaborate to reduce number of animals needed for research](#)
- [Giving robots a change of heart](#)
- [Itchy inflammation of Mosquito bites helps virus replicate](#)
- [Suppressing repair protein could be key to treating brain tumours](#)
- [Common cold virus could help fight liver cancer and hepatitis](#)

Openness Case Studies

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Animal research "3Rs" achievements recognised at Imperial College London

Innovative work in animal research at Imperial was celebrated at an event to launch its third annual animal research report.

Professor Sir James Stirling, Provost and Establishment Licence Holder at Imperial, said:

“The [report](#) showcases some of the innovative applications of the 3Rs from around the College, and also describes what we refer to as the fourth R - relevance - aimed at ensuring the work we do with animals directly relates to human disease and will ultimately have a positive impact on human health and well-being.”



Professor Stirling made five awards for excellence in animal research including the team award to [Professor Wendy Barclay](#), Ms Rebecca Frise and Ms Tess Boreham for their refinement of [ferret models](#) for research into the transmission and mutation of influenza.

Mr Phil Rawson, Senior Technician and Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer, received his award for an initiative to house post-operative guinea pigs in groups, rather than single cages, in order to reduce stress levels.

Dr Marie-Sophie Nguyen-Tu, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Medicine and [Dr Charlotte Dean](#), Lecturer in Lung Development and Disease, National Heart & Lung Institute, also both received the Provost's Award for their work, as did the team who led on the Google Expeditions virtual tour of Imperial's animal facilities.

UAR HAS MOVED

Please note our new address - 4th Floor Abbey House, 74-76 St John Street, London EC1M 4DZ. Our email addresses and phone numbers will remain the same.