



The Use of Animals in Medical Research

The independent Academy of Medical Sciences promotes medical and scientific research and campaigns to ensure advances in these fields are translated as quickly as possible into benefits for patients. Medical and scientific research improves both the treatment and understanding of disease and is essential for maintaining advances in health care.

Medical research uses a wide variety of methods and technologies. Despite advances in other methods of research, it is still essential to use animals in research where no viable alternative exists. Research using animals is controlled by law.

The Academy is aware that the use of animals in research raises ethical issues, and it expects that such research will be carried out to the highest standards of scientific rigour and animal welfare. The Academy supports the '3Rs': to replace animal use where possible, to reduce the number of animals used and to refine procedures in order to minimise suffering.

The Academy of Medical Sciences is an associate member of the Coalition for Medical Progress: <http://www.medicalprogress.org>