

Webinar Invitation

Topic: How to advance public acceptance of research with animals in the United States through greater transparency and openness

The National Primate Research Centers invite you and your colleagues to a webinar discussion on Tuesday, February 6 at 11 am Eastern about advancing public acceptance of research with animals in the United States. This webinar will provide background information and serve as a precursor to more detailed discussions at the [5th International Basel Declaration Society Conference](#) in San Francisco, February 14-15.

Overview

A May 2017 Gallup Poll revealed the proportion of people believing it is morally acceptable to conduct "Medical testing on animals" among the American public has fallen to 51% vs. 65% in 2001, with 44% believing it is morally unacceptable. Disapproval was highest among adults younger than 35.

While recent political events in the United States and Europe suggest solely relying on public opinion polls as a guide to how any issue is viewed in society may be misleading, there is enough anecdotal evidence to suggest those who conduct research with animals are failing to improve public acceptability of animal research in the United States. Recent polling also suggests that when animal research is put into context, such as highlighting the specific disease areas and potential advances being investigated using animal models, support rises substantially. Thus, the need for the scientific community to more consistently communicate the continuing need for animal research to the public is apparent.

European Commitments

In a number of European countries, public and private research institutions have made the decision that being more open and transparent about their use of animals in research could help improve public understanding and acceptability, and that abiding by collective commitments is also important. These commitments are that institutions:

1. Will be proactive in seeking opportunities to explain when, how and why they use animals in research.
2. Will provide information to the media and the general public about the conditions under which research using animals is carried out and the benefits obtained from them.
3. Will develop initiatives that generate greater public knowledge and understanding about the use of animals in scientific research.
4. Will place an animal welfare statement on their institution's website

In the UK through the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research](#), and in Spain through the [Transparency Agreement](#), this approach has been codified into national agreements. In Belgium, [24 research institutions](#) released a statement committing

themselves to develop practical steps that support a transparent approach to animal research in the country. Italy and Portugal are also discussing similar approaches.

Webinar Moderator

Kirk Leech, Director of the [European Animal Research Association](#), will open the webinar with a brief presentation about the European approach and then will moderate a discussion on ways the scientific community can improve public support in the U.S. for animal research. Discussions from the webinar will be carried through to the upcoming [5th International Basel Declaration Society Conference](#) in San Francisco.

Registration

To register, send an email to Yerkeseventrsvp@emory.edu by Friday, February 2.

Include:

- Name of person registering
- Title
- Institutional affiliation
- Country if other than the U.S.
- Email address
- Phone number

You can also use this email to ask questions as well as submit discussion topics for the webinar.

We look forward to hearing from you.