

EARA News Digest, Week 40 - 1956 study recognised; Swiss TV; NABR needs support; EARA strategic review published.



European Animal  
Research Association

## EARA News Digest – Week 40

Welcome to your Monday morning update, [from EARA](#), on the latest developments in science, policy and openness in animal research in Europe and around the world.

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## Research



### 1956 study recognised for its contribution to immune research

An obscure [60-year-old study](#) has been awarded a 2018 Golden Goose Award, in recognition of its help in developing vaccines, treating autoimmune disorders, and acting as one of the precursors to immunotherapy.

[Golden Goose Awards](#) are given to "seemingly-obscure, federally-funded research" that leads to "major breakthroughs in biomedical research, medical treatments, and computing and communications technologies".

Chickens are born with the bursa of Fabricius, an organ that was researched by Bruce Glick of Ohio State University in the 1950s. After removing these from chicks in an unrelated experiment, Glick and colleague Timothy Chang found that bursa-less chickens could not produce immunity.

Published in 1956 by [Poultry Science](#), Glick's study is now the most cited work in history of the journal.

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EARA Executive Director Kirk Leech commented: "This shows the importance of basic and 'blue skies' research by scientists even when the results or practical applications are not immediately apparent."

## Media

### Swiss TV films at primate research facility

Swiss TV station RTS has featured the issue of animal research and been given access to the primate center at the University of Fribourg.



[The video](#) includes an interview with Fribourg's chair of neurophysiology, [Prof. Eric Rouiller](#), and an online [fact piece](#) (both in French only) on animal research in Switzerland.

EARA Executive Director, Kirk Leech, said: "With a greater focus on animal research in Switzerland and potentially a national referendum on the issue next year, it's good to see [the University](#) demonstrating greater openness."

## Policy



### Book now: Free EARA event in Tübingen, Germany

A reminder to book your ticket for the [free event](#) *Improving Openness in Animal Research in Germany*, taking place this month at the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) in Tübingen.

The EARA event will focus on why scientists, researchers, press officers and other stakeholders should talk about animal research.

**Monday, 22 October, 14:00 - 17:00**

**German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)  
Tübingen**

Register [here](#)

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## Policy

### **NABR complaint to US government - letters of support**

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) is encouraging organisations to submit [letters of support](#) for its official complaint to the US Department of Transportation on airlines refusing to carry animals used in research.

As previously [reported](#) by EARA, and [elsewhere](#), NABR believes that the named airlines—British Airways, China Southern, Qatar Airways and United Airlines—are discriminating against the biomedical sector as they are prepared to carry pets or animals used for other purposes, such by circuses or zoos.

Many US and European organisations, including EARA, have already submitted letters, so please contact [Kirk Leech](#) or [NABR](#) if you wish to add your support.

NABR has also made a template letter available [here](#).



## Media



### **EARA looks ahead with objectives for next five years**

EARA has set out the association's vision and mission and its strategic objectives up until to 2023, following its General Assembly in Munich, Germany.

The [Strategic Review](#) looks at the background to EARA's founding in 2014 and its achievements. The association now has more than 70 member organisations from private and public research as well as professional bodies across 15 countries in Europe.

EARA was founded following recognition of the need to develop, establish and implement proactive

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communication strategies to improve public understanding and acceptability of animal research, and to help co-ordinate the sector to speak with a unified voice in Europe.

Among EARA's achievements so far are the forming of formal and informal networks, particularly in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain, engagement with the EU on regulation and consultation, a social media presence in seven languages and support for the supply chain in Europe.

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