

EARA News Digest 2019 Week 11 - Parkinson's progress; EARA Communications Handbook; UCB openness; Swiss scientists respond to referendums.



**European Animal
Research Association**

EARA News Digest 2019 - Week 11

Welcome to your Monday morning update, *from EARA*, on the latest developments in biomedical science, policy and openness in animal research in Europe and around the world.

Media



Parkinson's symptoms reduced in mouse model

German researchers have minimised the main symptoms of Parkinson's in a mouse model by using a drug already licensed for humans.

A team at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Tübingen, and University Medical Center Göttingen, prompted significant improvements in affected mice with a drug called Emapunil - a human anxiety therapy drug.

Parkinson's is characterised by loss of nerve cells, lowered levels of dopamine, brain

inflammation, and motor deficits; all these symptoms were reduced or eliminated after administering mice with a dose of Emapunil every two days for up to 15 days.

The researchers [wrote](#). 'We propose to further validate Emapunil in other Parkinson's disease mouse models and subsequently in clinical trials.'

Media



EARA communications handbook launched

A guide on how to develop and implement a communications strategy on the use of animals in research has been published by the European Animal Research Association (EARA).

A free hard copy of the [EARA Communications Handbook](#) (in English only, cover price €375), along with an encrypted electronic version has been distributed exclusively to EARA member organisations.

Organisations that are not EARA members can purchase the Handbook or arrange to discuss communications further by contacting [Kirk Leech](#).

Media



New steps towards transparency at Belgian pharma company

EARA member Union Chimique Belge (UCB) has included the total number of animals used in research for the first time in its latest [annual report](#).

The 2018 report of the biopharmaceutical company, based in Belgium, contains a governance section that outlines the use of animals in its biomedical research.

UCB states that a total of 17,020 animals (both internally and externally at CROs) were used: 97.6 % of all animals used were rodents, with non-human primates, dogs, llamas, mini-pigs and rabbits accounting for the remaining 2.4%.

'With its continued commitment to the progressive implementation of in silico and in vitro technologies, UCB continues to take every opportunity to decrease the number of animals used in research studies', says the report.

See also the [UCB video](#).

Policy

Swiss scientists respond to planned referendums



EARA was invited to speak at the [University of Zurich](#) last week on the biomedical sector's plans to improve public understanding and acceptance of animal research in Switzerland.

EARA Executive Director, Kirk Leech, along with the UK's [Understanding Animal Research](#), the Swiss Universities Communications Officers Conference, [SUPRIO](#) and the Swiss science network [Forschung für Leben](#) discussed the impact of the future referendums on research animals at both national (in [German](#)) and [canton](#) level.

The referendums seek to give the status of personhood (see [EARA blog](#)) to animals and to secure an outright ban on animal research.

This occurs against a backdrop of [continuing difficulty](#) for Swiss biomedical and veterinary researchers, particularly with [gaining official authorisation](#) for their work.

The attendees agreed to collaborate on initiatives to improve publicly available material, and also potentially through a nationwide Transparency Agreement on improving animal research communications to the public.

Do you have any colleagues who you think should receive this news digest? They can subscribe using [this link](#).

Follow the European Animal Research Association:



Copyright © 2019 European Animal Research Association, All rights reserved.

The weekly newsletter from EARA is intended for updating interested parties on the latest news in animal research and policy. You are receiving this email because you have previously been in contact with EARA.

Our mailing address is:

European Animal Research Association

Abbey House

74-76 St John Street

London EC1M 4DZ

[Privacy policy](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

