



Patron: Professor John Coetzee

#### AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH INC.

- To promote all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.
- To promote the use of scientific alternatives in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.
- To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments.
- To work for the abolition of all experiments using animals.

## Welcome

Welcome to our December newsletter, the last for this year.

The past few months have provided AAHR with some wonderful opportunities to participate in expos and attend seminars, enabling us to educate more people about the truth of animal experimentation. We had a wonderful time at both the Cruelty Free Lifestyle Expo and World Vegan Day Picnic at Albert Park, and we also attended a seminar at Monash University – “Making them suffer so that we prosper – ethical issues in animal experimentation”, and the Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare’s annual scientific procedures seminar titled “Putting the 3Rs under the microscope.”

While AAHR opposes animal experiments primarily on scientific grounds, we do nevertheless participate in discussion and attend information sessions on ethics and 3Rs etc., so that we are better informed about all issues concerning animal experimentation and so we can argue on better grounds.

Thanks to all who have provided us with your wonderful feedback on our last newsletter. I do hope you find this edition interesting and I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

*Helen Rosser*

### Email list

If you have previously provided us with your email address you may have received a message from us in November welcoming you to the AAHR email list. The list has been established so that we may send you information that we believe will be of interest, or that is of an urgent nature. As you will be aware, email is a wonderful medium to reach a great number of people and can be forwarded on to friends and relatives who may take interest in our work.

Please let us know if you would like to be added to our email list, or indeed if you would like to be removed. We do not intend sending information this way too regularly and this email group will NOT replace our printed newsletter.



### Melbourne-based volunteers needed for expo

AAHR has been invited to participate in the **Sustainable Living Festival** at Federation Square, Melbourne, on 17-19 February. We will require volunteers to assist over the three days, so if you enjoy answering queries about animal research and are able to help out please contact the AAHR office and let us know when you will be available.

For more information visit: [www.slf.org.au/festival](http://www.slf.org.au/festival)

### Your legacy can make a difference...

The work of AAHR is dependant on the generosity of our members and supporters – those people who recognize the injustice and dangers posed by animal-based research. After you have carefully considered family and friends, a gift in your will to AAHR is a wonderful way to continue your support past your lifetime.

Your bequest, whether large or small, is greatly valued and will assist us to speak out against animal experiments.

Bequests can be made in a number of ways and it’s wise to consult with a solicitor. Please contact the AAHR office if you require assistance with the correct wording to include in your will.

## ***Animal Experiments Harm Human Health*** By Andrew Knight

October 8, 2005 (Reproduced from American Chronicle)  
Jarrod Bailey, PhD and Jonathan Balcombe, PhD contributed to this article.

Industrial lobbyist Frankie Trull has once again trotted out her tired old claim that animal experiments are essential for the advancement of medical progress (American Chronicle Oct. 5.). With millions of dollars annually spent on such experiments unavailable for potentially lifesaving initiatives such as epidemiological research or health and nutrition education, the true value of animal experiments warrants closer scrutiny.

Earlier this year we critically examined the value of animal experiments in safeguarding human health. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in developed societies, and many millions of dollars, animal lives, and skilled personnel hours are spent annually on animal tests for human carcinogenicity. However, our surveys of major toxic chemical databases used by government regulatory authorities show that animal experiments yield useful human risk assessments for substantially less than half the chemicals tested. We found that over-reliance on animal data has commonly undermined predictions of the human risk of chemicals, with major implications for public health.[i],[ii]

Similarly, maternal exposures to teratogens during pregnancy cause thousands of human birth defects annually. The medical costs are in the millions; the human costs are incalculable. Despite similar investments to those of cancer research, our survey of animal test results demonstrated widespread discordance among all species used. For known human teratogens, mean positive predictivity barely exceeded 50%.[iii] Even sidestepping the ethical considerations of such profligate animal use, reliance on animal test data for human public health decisions constitutes bad science at best, and at worst risks human lives.

But ethical considerations relating to experimental animal use must not be sidestepped. Millions of animals die every year in toxicity tests such as these, which are rated among the most painful and stressful of procedures. Nor is their suffering brief. Dosing in the standard rodent test begins at six to eight weeks of age and continues for two years, after which any remaining survivors are killed and autopsied.

Even routine procedures such as handling, blood collection, and gavaging (insertion of a stomach tube for the delivery of test chemicals or drugs in toxicity tests) cause significant fear and stress, that also affect experimental results. Our review of eighty published studies on rats, mice, monkeys, dogs, rabbits, hamsters, bats, or birds showed rapid, profound elevations in stress-related responses such as blood hormone levels and heart rate, for each of these procedures.[iv]

When not subject to human manipulation, laboratory animals spend most of their lives confined in small, barren cages, often in social isolation. Our review of one hundred and ten scientific studies found growing evidence that these conditions take a severe toll on the animals' neurological and psychological health. Even so-called 'enriched' environments fail to ameliorate most of these deficits.[v] Behavioural stereotypies—repetitive, unvarying and apparently functionless behaviour patterns that are believed to reflect animal suffering—are common, occurring, for instance, in some 50% of all laboratory housed mice.[vi]



*Andrew Knight, Jarrod Bailey and Jonathan Balcombe at the 5th World Congress on "Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences" Berlin, 2005.*

Finally, we examined alternative testing protocols, and found that data of superior human predictivity can be produced far more quickly and cheaply by expert computerised analyses of chemical structure, modernised cell culture tests, high-volume DNA tests for detecting genetic damage, expanded human clinical trials, and mandatory reporting of adverse reactions to pharmaceuticals.

If we are to consider ourselves an ethical, compassionate and intelligent society, our considerable scientific and medical resources should be directed at the best methods for alleviating both human and animal suffering. Animal experiments are unlikely to either cure human diseases or eliminate ethical concerns. Instead, government and industry should redirect the enormous funds spent annually on animal experiments into the development and implementation of scientifically-based non-animal alternatives.

Veterinarian Andrew Knight BVMS, MRCVS, is the President of Animal Consultants International ([www.AnimalConsultants.org](http://www.AnimalConsultants.org)), who provide expert advice on animal policy issues.

Medical Scientist Jarrod Bailey PhD is a Senior Research Associate at the School of Surgical & Reproductive Sciences, the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Biologist Jonathan Balcombe PhD is the author of *The Use of Animals in Higher Education: Problems, Alternatives, and Recommendations*, and of *Pleasurable Kingdom: The Animal Nature of Feeling Good* (MacMillan 2006, in press).

[i] Knight A, Bailey J, Balcombe J. Which drugs cause cancer? Animal tests yield misleading results. *BMJ USA* Oct. 2005 in press.

[ii] Knight A, Bailey J, Balcombe J. Animal carcinogenicity studies: poor human predictivity. *Altex: Alternatives to Animal Experimentation* 2005;22:24 Special issue. Abstracts 5th World Congress 2005.

[iii] Bailey J, Knight A, Balcombe J. The future of teratology research is in vitro. *Biogenic Amines* May 2005;19(2):97-146.

[iv] Balcombe J, Barnard N, Sandusky C. Laboratory routines cause animal stress. *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science* Nov. 2004;43(6):42-51.

[v] Balcombe J. 2004. Rodents in impoverished laboratory environments: evidence for psychological trauma. *Lab Animals* 2006. In press.

[vi] Mason GJ, Latham NR (2004) Can't stop, won't stop: Is stereotypy a reliable animal welfare indicator? In: *Proceedings of the UFAW International Symposium 'Science in the Service of Animal Welfare'* (Kirkwood JK, Roberts EA, Vickery S, eds). Edinburgh, 2003. *Animal Welfare* 13, S57-69 (Suppl.).

## Importation of primates update

Thank you to all our members who have sent in their completed petitions. We have already received well over 15 hundred signatures and urge you to keep them coming in. Please let us know if you'd like us to send you some new forms. As well as their intended purpose – to highlight our concerns in Parliament - petitions are also a great way to inform others about primate research. One member advised us that not one person who signed her petition was previously aware that Australia even had primate breeding colonies!

Please also continue to write to the Ministers whose contact details appear below. The federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Peter McGauran, has stated to us in personal correspondence "it is necessary to maintain the capacity to import captive bred primates to ensure that important medical research can proceed" and the CSIRO has advised us "The size of the Australian macaque colony is currently inadequate to provide sufficient animals for suitably powered vaccine studies; the colony's production is slowly increasing and we are *hopeful to limit future importations where possible.*" Let them know that these responses are unacceptable and urge them to impose an immediate ban on primate imports!

AAHR is, of course, opposed to the use of any primate in research (whether imported or obtained from an Australian breeding colony), but as you will be aware, our best method of attack is to chip away at the larger issue and we are therefore focusing on one small aspect at present.

We'd also like to remind you that our campaign is not to ban the importation of wild-caught primates (as some may have been led to believe); it is to ban the importation of ALL primates for research. As advised on our website and in our last newsletter, the NHMRC's *Policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes* states "Non-human primates imported from overseas must not be taken from wild populations...". Our concern here is that the UK, which is considered to have the best animal welfare legislation in the world, also has a ban on importing wild-caught primates and yet undercover investigations have revealed that loopholes exist and that they have been imported. Imposing a total ban on all primate imports for research would eliminate the risk of this occurring.

Similar concern has been expressed by the Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare:

"Where scientific procedures are not funded by the NHMRC, there is no requirement to comply with the NHMRC policy on non-human primates. There is at least one licence holder that currently falls into this category, and another licence holder that currently imports non-human primates. The Philippines and Indonesia banned the export of wild-caught primates in 1994, but without adherence to NHMRC policy there is a risk that wild-caught primates could enter the abovementioned research breeding colonies by overseas exchange. In such cases, breeding animals are replaced by wild-caught animals after their reproductive phase has finished, sometimes not to maintain genetic diversity but for economic reasons." [i]

**Garuda Indonesia** has recently confirmed that so long as permits are in place, they will carry primates for research purposes. Please ask them to refuse to do so in future by writing to:

**The Managing Director**  
Garuda Indonesia  
Level 1, 30 Collins Street  
Melbourne Vic. 3000



Photo courtesy: BUAV

[i] Proposed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Regulations 2005 Regulatory Impact Statement, Victorian Bureau of Animal Welfare, sourced from European Commission, 2003.

*NB: Our last newsletter reported that the number of macaques imported from Indonesia was 127. The CSIRO have since confirmed that the actual number is 67, which were imported in 2003. We now understand that the figures quoted previously were for permits only and not the actual number of individuals imported.*

**Please continue to write to:**

**The Hon. Tony Abbott, MP**  
Minister for Health & Ageing  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**The Hon. Peter McGauran, MP**  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**The Hon. Mark Vaile, MP**  
Minister for Trade  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## The 3Rs

The 3Rs – replacement, reduction and refinement were proposed by William Russell and Rex Burch in their manuscript “The principles of humane experimental technique”, 1959. The recommendations, which have been universally accepted, were intended to reduce the overall amount of suffering caused to animals during research.



### Replacement

The replacement of animals in scientific research eliminates the need to subject them to any scientific procedure. They can be replaced by using less (or non) sentient animals, usually in order to study basic cellular events; by using in vitro techniques – cell and tissue cultures to test drug effects; by using non-biological techniques, such as mathematical modeling, computer simulation, electronic animals and film and studio aids; and by using humans. This may involve obtaining tissue samples from post mortems or human volunteers providing consent to undergo scientific procedures.

### Reduction

This does not eliminate the use of animals, but by reducing the number of animals used can also reduce the overall amount of suffering. Animal use can be reduced by pooling available resources and sharing information so that procedures will not be repeated unnecessarily, and by using appropriate statistical techniques so that the smallest number of animals may be used.

### Refinement

This involves the modification of procedures wherever possible to minimise levels of animal suffering. This may be through the use of anaesthesia or analgesia and the improvement of animal husbandry and housing, such as adding environmental enrichment, to reduce stress factors.

Together the replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use are intended to tighten the regulation of animal research and lessen the overall level of animal suffering. Unfortunately however, reduction and refinement do not address the fact that results from animal experiments can be dangerously misleading when applied to human health. It is therefore pointless to use fewer animals or refine the procedure when it is the wrong procedure to follow. Replacement is therefore the only one of the Rs that remains a credible objective.

### In Response to our last Focus On... Animal Ethics Committees

#### Service on animal ethics committees - to do or not to do?

Having served simultaneously on a university AEC and a primary industries AEC, I have a combined 15 years experience of this work. The decision to serve as a Category C member was very difficult. However, although I am no longer involved in AECs, I have not regretted that decision for many reasons and my experiences lead me to agree with many of the points made by Cherie Wilson (AAHR News 106, September 2005).

The public at large today marvels at the contemporary medical scene with its huge body of medical understanding, its remarkable diagnostic tools, its many effective therapeutic methods and its broadening attitudes towards the “whole” patient. Yet, if one examines the history of human medicine[1], one could well come to the conclusion that the entire edifice of medical science is built on highly questionable ethical sand. The earliest known record of the dissection of a live human being is 1275. Not only the use of live and dead animals but also the use of live and dead human beings litters the annals of medical history and all this before the discovery in the Western world of anaesthetics in 1846. (Other cultures reliant on plant medicine had herbal sedatives that ranged widely in their effectiveness in rendering an experimental human or a patient insensible to pain).

Surely one of the biggest questions in medical science in previous centuries as much as today is “who should pay the price of suffering for the advancement of medical knowledge?” The same question arises in veterinary science. So, is it ethical to experiment on an animal (human or non-human) if it is to the benefit of that species? The question is no less challenging if the experiment is to be to the benefit of that individual animal (human or non-human).

If human beings are not prepared to participate in experiments (invasive or otherwise) for the advancement of medical knowledge, we are faced with two dilemmas. One is “what right have we to benefit from the suffering of other animals?” If the answer is “none”, the second dilemma is “how are we to proceed?”

It is this second dilemma that ethics committees must seek to resolve by demanding research into, and promoting the use of alternatives to the harmful use of both human and non-human animals. One cannot help wondering if such a resolution might be reached more quickly if more people who are opposed to the harmful use of animals in research were prepared to speak up on ethics committees.

**Cynthia Burnett.**

[1]“Medicine: An Illustrated History” Albert S. Lyons & R. Joseph Petrucelli. Macmillan, 1978.

## Merchandise

### Christmas is nearly upon us!!

AAHR merchandise would make a great Christmas gift for your family and friends. They can wear our t-shirts! Use our mugs! Display our bumper stickers! Tell the world of their opposition to animal research.

Prices include GST, postage and handling.

#### T/Shirts: \$25

Available in green and black in sizes: S/M/L

#### Mugs: \$15

"Animal experiments hurt people too!! There IS a better way..."

#### Pens: \$2.50

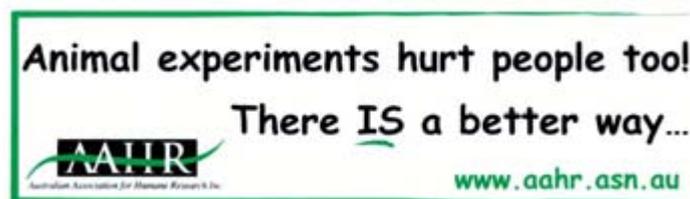
"STOP ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS!"

#### Bumper Stickers: \$2



### Order early to ensure delivery by Christmas!!

An order form can be downloaded from the merchandise page of our website, or you can phone or write to the office, supplying us with your address, and a cheque or credit card details and the items required (inc. size/colour if applicable).



## Australian News

### Expos

Recent events in Melbourne have provided AAHR with a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and inform them about the dangers of relying on animal-based research. During October and November we attended the Cruelty Free Lifestyle Expo, World Vegan Day picnic at Albert Park and we did a presentation in Ballarat to BOAR (Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights). Each of these events attracted people who were already sympathetic to animal welfare/rights issues, however most were unaware of the scientific arguments against animal experiments. Our involvement in these events gave us the chance to provide these people with a new perspective on the use of animals in medical research.



Jessica Bailey, formerly with AAHR, at the Cruelty Free Lifestyle Expo for the Cruelty Free Shop.

### GM crop scrapped as mice made ill

A ten-year study by the CSIRO to produce genetically modified pea crops that are resistant to insects has been abandoned after learning that the peas caused adverse reactions in mice.

The GM peas will be destroyed and the Gene Technology Regulator assures that they have not entered the human food chain.

Source: *The Australian*, 18 November 2005

### Doctors taste end to ban on fine dining

The pharmaceutical industry's code of conduct may soon relax a ban on offering lavish foods at drug-company-funded educational meetings for doctors. The rule was introduced three years ago after a public outcry over doctors being taken on luxury cruises and to top restaurants.

The president of the NSW branch of the Australian Medicine Association stated "We don't want doctors bribed or taken to inappropriate restaurants, but doctors work long hours and if they go out after surgery they expect a decent venue."

Source: *The Australian*, 7 November 2005

### Nobel Prizewinners

Western Australian professor Barry Marshall won a Nobel Prize by testing his medical theory on his own body. In order to prove his skeptics wrong, Professor Marshall swallowed a culture of helicobacter pylori, which gave him gastritis, and then cured himself with antibiotics – proving that bacteria, and not stress, causes peptic stomach ulcers.

Similar discoveries have been made by previous Nobel Prizewinners. Nobel winner in 1956, Andre Cournand inserted a catheter into his own heart, and Sir Macfarlane Burnet, Prof. Frank Fenner and Sir Ian Clunies-Ross injected themselves with the rabbit virus myxomatosis in the 1950's to prove it was safe around humans.

Source: *Herald Sun*, 5 October 2005 and *The Australian*, 4 October 2005

### REACH

The European Union is currently working on new legislation (REACH - Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) that will require gathering safety information on over 30,000 chemicals. Unfortunately the test regimes proposed rely largely on animal toxicity tests, meaning that millions of animals will likely suffer and die.

BUAV have responded by publishing a report titled "The Way Forward: A Non-animal strategy for Chemicals." The report recognises the need to protect the environment and human/animal health from the dangers of certain chemicals, but bases its strategy on sound scientific principles; embracing new sciences and arguing animal testing is unethical and scientifically flawed.

You can oppose the animal tests by writing to:

#### Lord Bach

Minister of State for the Environment  
DEFRA  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

### Mixing clopidogrel and aspirin reduces stroke and heart attack

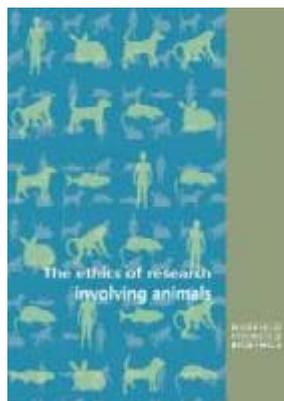
A Chinese study has found that thousands of lives could be saved by adding anti-clotting drug clopidogrel to aspirin for the treatment of heart attacks.

The study, which involved 45,800 patients in China has been claimed by health experts to be "safe and effective" and cuts the risk of deaths, repeat heart attacks and stroke by 9 percent.

Source: *Sunday Herald Sun*, 6 November 2005

### Nuffield Council on Bioethics

In May this year the Nuffield Council on Bioethics published its report "The ethics of research involving animals."



The 335 page report was produced by a working party which consisted of experts from academia, industry and animal protection.

The report is not unanimous about many ethical aspects of animal experimentation, but it does address the issues in great detail and did agree that the need to find non-animal replacements cannot be overstated, suggesting a variety of ways of addressing this.

Source: *Nuffield Council on Bioethics (2005). The Ethics of Research Using Animals.*

### New report shows increasing support for non-animal research

A new PCRM (Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine) report shows that a growing number of Americans want to know whether their donations are supporting animal experiments, or more innovative research.

Sixty-seven percent of adults polled in July 2005 said they were more likely to donate to a health charity that has a policy of never funding animal experiments than to one that does.

Source: *Good Medicine, Autumn 2005, Vol.XIV. No.4.*

### Stem cell centre in Seoul

A bank has been established in Seoul that will create and supply new lines of embryonic stem cells. The World Stem Cell Hub will be the main centre in an international consortium which includes the US and Britain. The bank aims to accelerate research into embryonic stem cells which scientists hope may be used to replace and repair diseased and damaged parts of the body. Sufferers of Parkinson's disease, spinal paralysis and diabetes are likely to be the first to benefit from the institution.

Prof. Hwang, a professor at Seoul National University (and who is known for cloning an Afghan) has said "We still have a long way to go before we will be able to apply our embryonic stem-cell research to clinically testing human bodies. It could be five years away for animals. It could be ten years away for humans."

Source: *Herald Sun*, 20 October 2005



### Petition from Dr Hadwen Trust

The Dr Hadwen Trust has presented a 50,000 signature petition to Lord Sainsbury's Office of Science and Technology (UK) calling on the British government to provide increased funding to the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs). It specifically earmarks research to replace animal experiments.

Dr Gill Langley, scientific advisor to the Dr Hadwen Trust commented: "Replacing animal experiments is a challenging goal, and one which the government has embraced through the establishment of the NC3Rs. Developing advanced non-animal methods of research offers enormous benefits to science, animal welfare, patients, the wider public and the economy. But the government funds currently committed to replacing animal experiments are inadequate to properly exploit this potential."

Source: *News release from Dr Hadwen Trust*, 11 November 2005  
[www.drhadwentrust.f2s.com](http://www.drhadwentrust.f2s.com)