

CHMS Statement on the Use of Animals in Medical Research

An important purpose of the Council of Heads of Medical Schools is to promote education and research that is carried out in medical schools in the UK. Such research is for the benefit of patients and the public. Biomedical research improves both our treatment and understanding of disease, and is essential to maintain the advances in health care that have arisen from earlier medical research..

Medical schools conduct research using 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.

Medical schools are aware that the use of animals raises ethical issues. CHMS expects that research conducted in medical schools be carried out to the highest standards of scientific rigour and of animal welfare. The CHMS 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.