

## Medical Schools Council Statement on the use of animals in research

The Medical Schools Council (MSC) represents the interests and ambitions of UK medical schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge through biomedical research and the profession of medicine.

Our members believe that good scientific research and open scientific research are reciprocal. It is therefore to the benefit of all that transparency and public engagement are made paramount in our members' institutions, which conduct research to address the most important issues in medicine and patient care. This can involve methods such as [clinical trials](#) with human volunteers, computer modelling, use of [tissue samples](#) and, when necessary, carefully regulated research involving animals.

The long process of advancing healthcare is underpinned by having a variety of methods available to researchers. This helps them identify new targets and approaches for improving patient outcomes. When there is no suitable alternative, animal research makes an important contribution to our understanding of conditions that seriously affect many people. However, we acknowledge that people have concerns about the ethics of this type of research and so it is essential that accurate information is accessible to all. This will be made possible through a new climate of openness.

Information about the benefits and limitations of animal research can be found here:

<http://understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/>

All animal research activity is governed by [the law and national guidance](#). Decisions to use animals in research are not taken lightly and are made only when necessary. We are fully supportive of the [3Rs](#): to replace animal use where possible; to refine procedures in order to minimise suffering; to reduce the number of animals used. MSC expects research conducted in medical schools to be conducted to the highest standards of scientific rigour and animal welfare.

Existing information about medical schools and their host universities' animal research policies can be found on individual institutions' websites.

MSC is a signatory to the [Concordat on openness on the use of animals in research in the UK](#).

To speak to someone about medical schools' use of animals in research, please contact [admin@medschools.ac.uk](mailto:admin@medschools.ac.uk).