

Novartis Position on Animal Research

At Novartis our mission is to reimagine medicine, to improve and extend patients' lives. Using science-based innovation, we strive to deliver better outcomes for patients and address the evolving healthcare needs of society.

Many encouraging alternative methods to research with animals, such as computer modeling and cell-based research assays, have been introduced into the process of drug development. Novartis fully supports the replacement of animals with non-animal alternatives wherever feasible, while meeting our obligations to patients and the expectations of regulatory agencies. In fact, Novartis has made great strides in adopting and even creating advancements in non-animal methods.

Novartis has continuously reduced the number of animals needed for pre-clinical research. Nevertheless, animal research continues to be an essential part of our work to deliver safe, efficacious, and transformative medicines to millions of patients. Today, there are still several areas where an understanding of disease mechanisms cannot be achieved without animals and thus the knowledge acquired through animal research is critical for the development of innovative treatments for unmet medical needs in humans. In addition, regulatory authorities often require new drugs first be evaluated in animals to ensure their safety and efficacy before being introduced into humans.

Novartis Position

- Novartis only supports research with animals when scientifically justified to understand why a disease occurs and to identify new therapies that are safe and effective in a living system, as required by many health authorities around the world.
- Novartis fully supports the replacement of animals with non-animal alternatives wherever feasible, while meeting our obligations to patients and the expectations of regulatory agencies.
- Novartis has a robust and transparently shared Animal Welfare Policy as well as a detailed set of Animal Welfare Standards that define key principles, responsibilities and explicit requirements governing Novartis sponsored animal research.
- All Novartis sponsored studies, whether conducted internally or externally, must adhere to this Policy and set of Standards.
- All Novartis animal facilities and research programs meet or exceed applicable national laws, regulations and accreditation guidelines for the care and use of animals in research.
- Novartis has a Global Animal Welfare Organization that ensures ethical oversight and compliance of Novartis sponsored animal studies and is empowered to steer and influence the company's adherence to the Policy and Standards.

- As strong adherents to the 3Rs concept (i.e., Reduction, Refinement and Replacement of animal research), we acknowledge the importance of animal welfare and support the development of alternative research methods. The Global Animal Welfare Organization sponsors and recognizes significant 3Rs advancements by our Novartis scientists. In addition, Novartis sponsors annual 3Rs Innovation Grants to prospectively support creation and validation of new 3Rs advancements by our Novartis scientists.
- Novartis recognizes that people have the right to express their opinions freely and openly about medical research involving animals. However, we condemn the use of violence, harassment, and intimidation.

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