

Developing a Concordat on Openness on Animal Research



Wendy Jarrett
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Understanding Animal Research

- Merger of Research Defence Society and Coalition for Medical Progress – January 2009
- More than 100 member organisations:
 - University departments, learned societies, animal technologists, lab animal vets, medical research charities, pharma industry, research funders, patient groups, breeders, contract research organisations
- 10 employees

Why should we care about openness?



Why do we need to be open?



Wake-up call

- Ongoing public opinion research by Ipsos MORI – started in 1999
- 2012 poll showed 10% reduction in public acceptance of animal research in medicine
- 66% of people do not have trust in the regulations
- “Wake up call” – we can’t ignore the need for proactive communications

Declaration on Openness



Aims of the Concordat

- Ensuring that organisations that carry out or fund animal research acknowledge that they need to earn the public's trust
- Providing more opportunities for the public to find out about animal research
- Talking clearly about the harms and limitations as well as the benefits and successes
- Normalising animal research

Normalising animal research



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Deaf gerbils 'hear again' after stem cell cure

12 September 2012 Last updated at 18:52

UK researchers say they have taken a huge step forward in treating deafness after stem cells were used to restore hearing in animals for the first time.

Hearing partially improved when nerves in the ear, which pass sounds into the brain, were rebuilt in gerbils - a UK study in the journal Nature reports.

Getting the same improvement in people would be a shift from being unable to hear traffic to hearing a conversation.

However, treating humans is still a distant prospect.

Fergus Walsh reports.

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[Deaf 'hear again' with stem cells](#) [Parents' anger over signing cost](#)

Normalising animal research

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16 December 2012 Last updated at 18:05 [Share](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [s](#)

Virus rebuilds heart's own pacemaker in animal tests

By James Gallagher
Health and science reporter, BBC News

A new pacemaker has been built inside a heart by converting beating muscle into cells which can organise the organ's rhythm, US researchers report.

The heartbeat is controlled by electrical signals and if these go awry the consequences can be fatal.

Scientists injected a genetically-modified virus into guinea pigs to turn part of their heart into a new, working pacemaker.

The study was published in the journal **Nature Biotechnology**.

A human heart is made up of billions of cells, but researchers say fewer than 10,000 are responsible for controlling the heartbeat.

Age and disease can lead to problems such as the heart pumping too fast or too slow - and it can even stop completely, in what is known as a cardiac arrest.

The solution is an implanted battery-powered pacemaker which will jolt the heart to keep it in line.



Researchers created a new pacemaker inside the heart

Related Stories

- Skin transformed into brain cells
- Heartbeat 'could power pacemaker'
- 500,000th heart pacemaker fitted

Developing the Concordat

- Steering Group
- Working Group
- Public Dialogue project
- Public Consultation – until 16 December
- Final publication – Spring 2014
- Revision in 2017

Public dialogue



Four proposed commitments

1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research

Four proposed commitments

2. We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals

Four proposed commitments

3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals

Four proposed commitments

4. We will report on progress annually and share our experiences

Thank you – questions?

