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Alternatives to animal experiments: evolution or revolution?

How can alternative methods to conventional animal experiments be further developed to test potentially toxic substances? One possibility is to break new ground in small steps (“evolutionary”) and on the basis of previous animal experiments. “Revolutionary”, on the other hand, is a second approach that uses the basic processes in the human body as the standard. International experts discussed both approaches in a joint BfR and Dutch National Institute for Public Health and Environment workshop. One result: although new methods still need to be further developed, they could not only help to reduce animal experiments, they will also help to gain deeper insights into the effects of chemical substances on the human body.

More information:

Burgdorf, T. et al. 2019. Workshop on the validation and regulatory acceptance of innovative 3R approaches in regulatory toxicology – Evolution versus revolution. *Toxicol In Vitro* 59: 1–11



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Symposium on research funding

In biomedical research, alternative methods to animal experiments are becoming increasingly important. Various funding programmes aimed at replacing, reducing and refining experiments (“3R principle”) are pushing the development and acceptance of alternative methods. To spotlight scientific animal welfare for even more scientists, the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals at the BfR held a symposium in Berlin in autumn, providing information about nationwide funding options. Best practice projects were presented as well as current strategic challenges in the transfer of knowledge among publishers. The event with 150 participants was supported by: the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, represented by the Project management Jülich, the German Research Foundation, the set Foundation, the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg and the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate.

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For more hashtags on the issue of animal welfare: since spring, the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals at the BfR has been providing information about its activities and innovations in the development of alternative methods to animal experiments via the Twitter account @Bf3R_centre.

More information:

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