



The Humane Society of the United States' **Animal Research News & Analysis** August 23, 2002

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1. Correction—House of Lords Report on Animal Research

In our recent news item on the British House of Lords Report on Animal Research (**Animal Research News & Analysis**, August 8, 2002), we used a quote from *Reuters News Service* that, unbeknownst to us, was erroneously attributed to the House of Lords report itself. The quote actually was from a representative of a British animal protection organization. We regret perpetuating this mistake and we thank Americans for Medical Progress for alerting us to this situation.

In its long-awaited report, the House of Lords concluded that animals will continue to be used to ensure the safety of medicines and other related compounds, but urged that an increased effort should be made to reduce the number of animals used in research.

Sources: BBC News

2. Fourth World Congress Draws Hundreds to New Orleans to Discuss Progress on Alternative Methods

Approximately 500 representatives from the international scientific/research community, academia, industry, government, and animal protection convened for five days in New Orleans at The Fourth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. The triennial World Congresses provide a forum for exchanging information and views on progress in the realm of alternative techniques in biomedical research, testing, and education that have the potential to replace, reduce, and refine animal use. The Fourth Congress, which was coordinated primarily by The HSUS, had five running themes on which parallel sessions were

based: replacement/reduction; refinement/reduction; databases/education/information retrieval; validation/testing; and policy/ethics.

From Monday August 12th through Thursday August 15th, Congress participants attended a multitude of plenary lectures, parallel sessions, point-counterpoint sessions, and workshops, such as:

- Charles DeLisi's plenary lecture: "Biological Universality: How an Understanding of Human Biology is Developed by *In Vitro* and *In Silico* Experiments."
- Parallel session: "Policy Aspects of Chemicals Testing Initiatives and Alternatives."
- Workshop: "Transgenic Animal Issues."
- Point-counterpoint session: "Is Animal Research Necessary in the 21st Century?"

During the Congress banquet on Wednesday evening (August 14th), Mr. Paul Irwin, HSUS President and CEO and Dr. Andrew Rowan, HSUS Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President for Research, Education, and International Issues, bestowed the 2002 Russell and Burch Award upon Dr. David Morton for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of alternative methods. Dr. Morton is a Professor and Head of the Department of Biomedical Science and Biomedical Ethics at the University of Birmingham in England. He also serves as the Director of the University's Unit of Biomedical Services, which provides laboratory animal management services. Through his research, writings, and participation in alternatives conferences and other professional activities, Dr. Morton has been one of the world's leading figures in the field of refinement of animal-based methods since the 1980s.

3. ALTBIB: a New Bibliographic Web Resource for Animal Use Alternatives

The Specialized Information Services (SIS) Division of the National Library of Medicine (NLM) has recently released a new online bibliographic database for alternative methods in biomedical research and toxicology testing. "ALTBIB" seeks to assist in identifying methods and techniques helpful in supporting the development, validation and implementation of alternatives to live vertebrate use in research and testing. This resource is well-suited for researchers in the biomedical and toxicology fields, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, educators, regulatory officials, and the animal protection community.

ALTBIB is a product of MEDLARS database searches, executed and analyzed by subject experts from the Toxicology and Environmental Health Information Program (TEHIP) of the NLM's SIS Division.

To access ALTBIB, please visit: <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/altbib.html>.

Source: Specialized Information Services Division – NLM

4. NIH Amends Policy Regarding Review of Animal Use Protocols

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has made an important change in the Public Health Service (PHS) *Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, with the aim of reducing the workload of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs). Effective

September 1, 2002, institutions with PHS Animal Welfare Assurances will be allowed to submit verification of IACUC approval for competing grant applications following NIH peer review but prior to award of the grant. The current language in the *Policy* requires IACUC approval prior to application for grants; otherwise the application is deemed incomplete. The effect of this change will be to eliminate the need for IACUC review of protocols that are not likely to receive NIH funding.

The NIH proposed this change in policy in a March 28th *Federal Register* notice. In response to that proposal, The HSUS submitted comments which acknowledged that the policy change would decrease the IACUC workload and may result in increased attention to those protocols that are actually funded and destined to be conducted. However, The HSUS expressed the concern that IACUCs might conduct a less-than-thorough review, and be less inclined to call for changes in protocols (or reject protocols outright), when reviewing protocols that are on the verge of bringing money into their home institution.

Sources: Federal Register, August 7, 2002; The HSUS

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**Animal Research News & Analysis** is an electronic newsletter that provides up-to-date news stories and interpretive analyses concerning the use of animals in research, testing, and education. The newsletter is produced by The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and is distributed periodically. It serves as a source for information and is not a discussion list, so please do not reply to this message. Any questions, comments or email address changes should be directed to [ari@hsus.org](mailto:ari@hsus.org). To unsubscribe, please send an e-mail request to [ari@hsus.org](mailto:ari@hsus.org) with the words, "unsubscribe – Animal Research News" in the subject line; please specify your first and last name. The HSUS's collection of web-based animal research-related news stories can be viewed at: [www.hsus.org/ace/712](http://www.hsus.org/ace/712).

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