

ANIMAL RESEARCH NEWS & ANALYSIS

**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



Dutch Scientist Wins Russell & Burch Award

The Humane Society of the United States recently bestowed its Russell and Burch Award on Bert van Zutphen, Professor Emeritus of Utrecht University, The Netherlands, for his outstanding contributions towards advancing the Three R's of replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal use in research. The award, given in Berlin on August 24th at the Fifth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, is presented every few years to a scientist whose work has advanced the Three R's in research, testing or education. The Russell and Burch Award, named after the scientists who pioneered the concept of the "Three R's", carries a \$5,000 cash prize. In recent years, the winners have been selected by judges who are all former recipients of the award.

Dr. van Zutphen co-founded the World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in 1993, and was the primary organizer of the Second World Congress on Alternatives, in Utrecht in 1996. He also co-founded the Netherlands Centre for Alternatives. In the mid-1980s he established laboratory animal science courses for students, young scientists and veterinarians that emphasized the 3Rs. These courses were later mandated by law and served as a model recommendation for the education of scientists. According to Martin Stephens, HSUS vice president for animal research issues, "The HSUS is delighted to recognize Bert van Zutphen for his career-long contributions to promoting the refinement of animal research for the benefit of both animal welfare and good science."

Source: [The HSUS](#)

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In this issue...

[Dutch Scientist Wins Russell and Burch Award...](#)

[Animal Protection Groups, Scientists Call for an End...](#)

[Modeling an Animal on a Chip...](#)

[Johns Hopkins Pays Settlement for Animal Welfare Violations...](#)

[Mishaps in Laboratories Cause Animal Deaths...](#)

Noteworthy...

The Alternatives Research and Development Foundation (ARDF) has announced the recipients of a total of \$150,000 in research funding under its 2005 Alternatives Research Grant Program. The researchers are based at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Boston University, University of

Rochester Medical Center, and University of California, Santa Cruz. For more information, go to <http://www.ardf-online.org/>

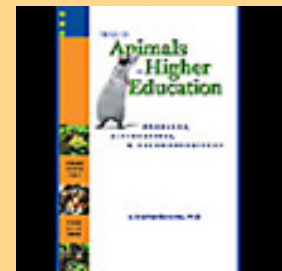


Animal Protection Groups, Scientists Call for an End to Primates in Research

Animal protection organizations from around the world have adopted a resolution calling upon all relevant stakeholders to develop a coordinated plan to end the use of non-human primates in biomedical research and testing. The resolution was adopted unanimously at a meeting of animal protectionists held in Berlin on August 21st and presented at a press conference the following day during the opening of the Fifth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. The press conference featured representatives of the German Animal Welfare Federation, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare, and The Humane Society of the United States, who were joined by renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, who was the first of many attendees at the World Congress to sign the resolution to indicate their support.

The text of the resolution, which is preceded by a short preamble, reads as follows: "The animal protection organizations attending the Fifth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Berlin in 2005 have united to call for an end to the use of non-human primates in biomedical research and testing. We urge governments, regulators, industry, scientists and research funders worldwide to accept the need to end primate use as a legitimate and essential goal; to make achieving this goal a high priority; and to work together to facilitate this. In particular, we believe there must be an immediate, internationally coordinated effort to define a strategy to bring all non-human primate experiments to an end." Dr. Martin Stephens, HSUS vice president for animal research issues, who spoke at the press conference, later observed that the resolution is intended, in part, "to help set priorities for work on the replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal use in research."

Source: [The HSUS](#)



Modeling an Animal on a Chip



Cell culture systems are often used to identify potential new drugs or their toxic properties, but these systems typically involve only one cell type and consequently are limited in their ability to mimic the complex interactions that can occur among different cells, tissues, or organs. A new technology has been developed that seeks to model these interactions, and if successful, could substantially reduce animal use in drug and chemical testing. Michael Shuler, a biomedical engineer at Cornell University, and Gregory Baxter, a molecular biologist and cofounder of Hurel Corporation, have developed an "animal on a chip." The "Hurel" is a silicon wafer seeded with cell clusters from different organs, interconnected by channels. An external pump moves test substances through the cellular compartments via the channels. Thus tiny amounts of fluid circulate among the cell types in a manner similar to the way that fluids bath the tissues and organs in the living animal. Commonly used cells for the chip include those from the liver, lungs, brain and heart. Liver cells play an important part because of their metabolizing properties.

Baxter expects that Hurels will be on the market by late 2006. Johnson and Johnson was the first company to sign up in June 2005 to form a yearlong collaboration to refine and validate the Hurel technology. While such cell-based chip systems alone may never completely replace animals in drug discovery or toxicity testing, they have considerable potential to limit animal testing and revolutionize drug development.

Sources: ATLA 33, p. 189, 2005; Forbes Magazine, August 15, 2005

Johns Hopkins Pays Settlement for Animal Welfare Violations



Johns Hopkins University (JHU) of Baltimore, Maryland, recently paid a \$25,000 settlement after being cited by the Department of Agriculture for allegedly failing to give adequate care to animals used in research as noted in the following items. The USDA, responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act, found incidents occurring from 1998 to 2003 in which animals were not given anesthesia or proper veterinary care during painful experiments. The agency also found that primates were not provided with environmental enrichment and that at least 37 primates were housed in spaces smaller than the minimum requirements. In three separate studies, three pigs, one dog, and a marmoset did not receive any analgesics, though such pain-relief was warranted. In other studies, researchers modified projects without first obtaining approval from JHU's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. In conjunction with this action, JHU has announced that it has improved its oversight system.

In a separate complaint involving JHU, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) contacted the National Institute of Health's Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) in February 2005, following a tip that JHU personnel had improperly euthanized animals and consequently stored the still-live animals in a refrigerator. JHU was also allegedly disposing animal carcasses improperly. The complaint involved mainly mice and rats, species not covered by the Animal Welfare Act, so The HSUS contacted OLAW, which extends its animal welfare oversight to rats, mice and all other vertebrate animals used in federally funded research programs. OLAW responded that on two separate occasions at JHU, a live rat had been discovered in a cooler following a euthanasia attempt. According to OLAW, JHU has since developed guidelines and standard operating procedures regarding rodent euthanasia.

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, August 10, 2005



Mishaps in Laboratories Cause Animal Deaths

Malfunctions of air conditioning in two research laboratories have led to hundreds of animal deaths this summer. At Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Collegeville, PA, 518 mice died in early August after a ventilation unit failed. The problem was not discovered until the following day.

Hyperthermia killed many animals outright, and others that could not be revived were euthanized. In the other mishap, 61 animals died at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley on August 1st. A pipe burst, shorting out the air conditioning and alarm systems. Twelve of the dead animals were venomous snakes that had been used in studies for possible medical uses of venom. The remaining animals that died were mice, some of which were genetically engineered and valued at several thousand dollars. In some cases, room temperatures exceeded 100° Fahrenheit for several hours.

The housing and husbandry conditions of mice and snakes, as well as various other animals, are not regulated under the Animal Welfare Act because these animals are excluded from coverage. In the wake of its equipment malfunction, Wyeth has taken action to help prevent a recurrence.

Source: Denver Post, August 17, 2005; Philadelphia Inquirer, August 5, 2005

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