

# The 3Rs' Committee at Imperial College London

ANDREW GREENAN and BONNIE GLEN

Imperial College London, Central Biomedical Services

Correspondence: [a.greenan@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:a.greenan@imperial.ac.uk), [b.glen@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:b.glen@imperial.ac.uk)

## The 3Rs' committee

Imperial's 3Rs' committee was created in 2014 to promote and drive 3Rs changes in animal research at the college. It is made up of several members who work with animals at various levels.

By having members from separate roles and backgrounds it enables topics to be discussed and evaluated. This could be from an Animal Welfare point of view (techs, Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers and Named Veterinary Surgeon), or scientific viewpoint (academics). This enables more information to be gathered and discussed.

## Topics discussed at committee meetings

The committee meets every 3 months to discuss topics, where are:

- Ideas and opinions on current practices, including how regulated procedure techniques can be altered and improved or changed to improve the Animal Welfare.
- Discuss any positive 3Rs topics from other institutes that have been brought to our attention at symposiums, from ex-colleagues and newsletters.
- Organise and manage a range of courses and initiatives for staff and researchers that relate to the 3Rs. Previous events include Charles River seminars on genetically altered mice, RSPCA courses on everyday 3Rs and collaborative grants between researchers and Central Biomedical Services (CBS) staff.
- Organise and manage prizes and events to promote excellent animal research at the college (Imperial's Provost Prize award; Animal Forum; Animal Report).

## Supporting the 3Rs at Imperial

It is vital to always strive to improve as modern technology, methods and drugs are constantly being created. Working with the 3Rs in mind ensures that a high standard of welfare is met, maintained and improved. Supporting the 3Rs will help with the Refinement, Reduction & Replacement of the animals used at Imperial.

## The role of CBS staff on the committee

With CBS staff as members of the 3Rs' committee is essential to ensure a balanced discussion and to propose initiatives which are relevant. This and ensures that an elevated level of welfare is maintained for animals housed and used for scientific studies at Imperial. Initiatives, noted from CBS representatives within the committee aim to encourage Technicians (of all levels) to share their work and/or any 3Rs ideas that could be improved or newly implemented at Imperial (e.g. clear handling tunnels) via poster presentations or Congress participation.

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In the future, we are working on several initiatives for CBS staff by educating and promoting ideas through staff seminars and newsletters. We are interested in looking into the use of 'Vet Bed' cloths for handling and restraint for procedures and to support post-surgery animals to help with body temperature regulation.