

STATEMENT FROM THE EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM, MEMBERS* AND ALLIES

The Patient's perspective on the use of animals in biomedical research

- **Patients are the direct beneficiaries of medical research; their voice and opinions are as important as other stakeholders.**
- **Whilst we would like to see future advances made without research involving animals we believe that properly regulated animal research continues to be essential in many aspects of medical research and a vital, legally required stage in the development of treatments for patients with unmet medical needs.**

Therefore:

We support animal based research for medicinal purposes undertaken in accordance with best practice in properly regulated research centres and where there is no alternative. Central to this is a legal framework that is appropriate and proportionate (i.e. allowing essential research whilst protecting the welfare of animals used). But we would also advocate more intensive investment to ensure that realistic alternatives to animal testing are made available as soon as possible.

We call for:

- A proportionate, appropriate and transparent regulatory framework designed with proper consideration of the **rationale** behind the research .This regulatory framework should prevent abuse, not compromise safety of products that may emerge, and not delay progress towards new therapies.
- Enhanced Investment into the 3Rs: Refinement, Reduction & Replacement, to ensure accelerated development of realistic alternatives to animal testing.

***NOTE: All EPF members with the exception of ENUSP (European Network of (ex-) Users and Survivors of Psychiatry) have signed up to the Statement.**

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