

Animal experimentation

Animal experimentation is an essential part of modern drug and medical therapy research and development. Despite encouraging methods for computer and cell-culture-based research there are still many areas where better understanding of disease mechanisms cannot be achieved without the use of animals. The knowledge acquired through such experiments is essential for the development of innovative treatments for unmet medical needs.

Regulatory authorities worldwide and key ethical principles as laid down in the Helsinki Declaration require that new drugs be tested in animals before being introduced to human beings. Healthcare companies have to use knowledge that can only be obtained through animal studies to ensure the safety and effectiveness of our products.

Novartis acknowledges the importance of animal welfare and strives to develop alternative research methods enabling the reduction, refinement and replacement of animal experiments, including in-vitro and other modern scientific methods (e.g., modeling and non-invasive analytical methods). In order to ensure compliance with animal welfare provisions Novartis has recently established a global Animal Welfare Organization. This organization sets, implements and monitors global animal welfare standards for both, internal animal experiments and studies pursued with external partners.

Novartis Position

Novartis supports the use of animal experiments in our medical and biological research, where such experiments are scientifically necessary and alternative approaches are inappropriate. We have an Animal Welfare Policy and a set of Animal Welfare Standards that define key principles, requirements and responsibilities governing the use of animal experiments. A global Animal Welfare Organization which is overseen by our Corporate Animal Welfare Officer steers and coordinates related activities at a local and global level. We strictly adhere to international conventions (e.g., EC Directive 86/609, US Animal Welfare Act) and Health Authority regulations and guidelines in all of the countries where we operate. We demand the same of those organizations with which we partner for research involving animal experiments.

We acknowledge the importance of animal welfare and support the development

March 2005

of alternative research methods, as strong adherents to the “3-R” concept (i.e., Reduction, Refinement and Replacement of Animal Experimentation). We exceed the minimal animal welfare requirements wherever possible, and we fully comply with all required inspections.

Novartis condemns the use of violence and willful destruction campaigns by animal rights activists as substitutes for meaningful, productive dialogue.