

Openness Conference 2026

Communicating the continued need for animal research



9-10 June
2026



Location
West Midlands,
UK



www.uar.org.uk/openness-conference



Programme

Tuesday 9 June

From 08:00	Registration and exhibition open
09:20 – 09:30	Introduction Wendy Jarrett - Chief Executive, Understanding Animal Research, UK
09:30 - 10:00	Session 1 Keynote Lord Patrick Vallance - Minister of State (Minister for Science, Innovation, Research and Nuclear)
10:00 - 11:15	Session 2 - The future of openness agreements 10:00 – 10:14 Strengthening Transparency: Engaging Signatories and the Public in New Zealand's Openness Agreement Ian Saldanha - Australia & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART NZ), Australia 10:14 – 10:28 Contributing to a Culture Change: Portugal's Journey Towards a Transparent and Responsible Animal Research Ana Isabel Santos - NOVA Medical School, Portugal 10:28 – 10:42 The German Transparency Agreement: Five years in, reflections and the road ahead Jana Wilken - Initiative Tierversuche verstehen, Germany 10:42 – 10:56 Toward Transparency: The U.S. Animal Research Openness (USARO) Initiative & Agreement Paula Clifford - Americans for Medical Progress, USA 10:56 – 11:15 Panel discussion
11:15 - 11:45	Refreshments and Exhibition

11:45 - 13:00	<p>Session 3 - Embedding the 3Rs in public engagement: Approaches, opportunities and impact</p> <p>11:45 – 11:59 Genevieve Barr - NC3Rs, UK</p> <p>11:59 – 12:13 tbc</p> <p>12:13 – 12:27 tbc</p> <p>12:27 – 12:41 tbc</p> <p>12:41 – 13:00 Panel discussion</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and Exhibition
14:00 - 15:15	<p>Workshops 1 - 4</p> <p>1 Science writing for lay audiences: non-technical summaries and retrospective assessments Wendy Jarrett - Understanding Animal Research, UK</p> <p>2 Advanced media training: workshop participant case studies in animal research Nuno Miguel Gonçalves - European Animal Research Association, UK</p> <p>3 Talking about animal research on social media Mary Harvie and Victoria Summers - Understanding Animal Research, UK</p> <p>4 TBC</p>
15:15 - 16:45	<p>Poster session</p> <p>Refreshments and exhibition</p>
16:45 - 18:00	<p>Workshops 5 – 8</p> <p>5 How to film inside a lab Jamie Yuan and Hannah Hobson - Understanding Animal Research, UK</p> <p>6 Rising to the challenge: how to answer the most awkward animal research questions John Meredith - Understanding Animal Research, UK</p> <p>7 Embracing Transparency in Animal Research Aimee Paterson - AstraZeneca, UK</p> <p>8 Openness for AWERBs Ellie Muscat – RSPCA, UK</p>
18:00 - 19:00	Free time

19:00 – 19:30	Pre dinner drinks
19:30 – late	Gala dinner (including entertainment) plus poster prize giving

Wednesday 10 June

From 08:30	Registration and exhibition open
09:00 - 09:30	Session 4 Keynote Wendy Jarrett - Chief Executive, Understanding Animal Research, UK
09:30 - 11:00	<p>Session 5 - Opening Doors</p> <p>09:30 – 09:44 Beyond the Lab Tour: Using Spatial Computing and 'Dual-View' AR to Demystify Animal Facilities Maria Kamper and Jo Stanley - University of Manchester, UK</p> <p>09:44 – 09:58 Pigment Experience: An Enriching Art Based Outreach Initiative to Enhance Public Understanding Chris Wiederhold - Laboratory Animal Resource Center - Indiana University, USA</p> <p>09:58 – 10:12 From Classrooms to Cleanrooms: Bringing Students into the Research Animal World Scott Rhodes - University of Otago, USA</p> <p>10:12 – 10:26 Breaking out of the Box: Our Approach to Openness in Australia's High-Containment Animal Facility Sarah Riddell - Commonwealth and Scientific and Industrial Organisation, Australian Centre of Disease Preparedness, Australia</p> <p>10:26 – 10:40 Opening the Doors: Practical Approaches to Openness in Animal Research Kirsty Kemp - MRC LMB, UK</p> <p>10:40 – 11:00 Panel discussion</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Refreshments and Exhibition
11:30 - 13:00	<p>Session 6 - Opportunities for two-way engagement</p> <p>11:30 – 11:44 Patient Discovery: Expanding patient-researcher dialogue in Europe Inês Serrenho - European Animal Research Association, UK</p> <p>11:44 – 11:58 The Open Forum on Animal Research: an Attempt to Reduce Polarisation in the Netherlands Monique Sundin - European Animal Research Association, UK</p> <p>11:58 – 12:12 Building Research Champions through Structured Educational Framework Cherry May Sanchez - Cancer Research UK Cambridge Centre, UK</p>

	<p>12:12 – 12:26 It's good to talk: the Whitworth Debate as a model for constructive openness Mike Addelman and Jo Stanley - University of Manchester, UK</p> <p>12:26 – 12:40 Cultivating Openness: Collaboration, Progress, and Shared Leadership in Animal Research at the University of Washington Sally Thompson-Iritani - University of Washington, USA</p> <p>12:40 – 13:00 Panel discussion</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and Exhibition
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 7 - Engagement with diverse audiences</p> <p>14:00 – 14:14 Transparency Agreements in Practice: The Open Week for Public Engagement Monique Sundin and Inês Serrenho - European Animal Research Association, UK</p> <p>14:14 – 14:28 The Quarterly Creature Feature: Chronicling care, commitment and cutting-edge science Laura Cresser - The Pirbright Institute, UK</p> <p>14:28 – 14:42 Beyond Breeding: strategic collaboration to anchor the Mauritian NHP Sector in scientific purpose Anupah Makoond - Bioculture Group, Mauritius</p> <p>14:42 – 14:56 Engaging with the public at the Glasgow Science Festival Elizabeth Hurd – University of Glasgow, UK</p> <p>14:56 – 15:10 UAR Oceania Animals in Science Photography Awards Bella Lear - Understanding Animal Research Oceania, Australia</p> <p>15:10 – 15:30 Panel discussion</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Closing remarks Wendy Jarrett - Chief Executive, Understanding Animal Research, UK

Posters

01

Assessment of Laboratory Animal Care and Use in Ethiopian Research Institutes and Universities
[Henok Ferede Assefa](#) - Armauer Hansen research Institute, Ethiopia

02

A University of the Third Age visit to an animal facility
[David Christensen](#) - Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell, UK

03

Cultivating Curiosity: How Openness Inspires the Next Generation of Life Scientist

[Jonathan Holmes](#) - Agenda Lifes Sciences, UK

04

What animal models really tell us: lessons from Huntington's disease

[Safoora Kakar](#) - University of Leeds, UK

05

Smartphones really are smart: How to film and edit videos for social media and training.

[Kirsty Kemp](#) - MRC LMB, UK

06

Scaling Transparency: How Imperial's 3Rs Hub Shapes Communication for Ethical Animal Research

[Anna Napolitano](#) - Imperial College London, UK

07

Leaders in Openness: The impact of internal champions on in-vivo openness

[Aimee Paterson](#) – AstraZeneca, UK

08

Communicating animal research within a popular French fundraising campaign against rare disease

[Solenn Percelay](#) - TransCure bioServices, France

09

The DFG Senate Commission on Animal Research – connecting science, politics and communication

[Valeska Stephan](#) - SKTF(DFG)/UMR, Germany

10

Supporting researchers and building confidence to deliver 3Rs-focused public engagement

[Emma Stokes](#) - NC3Rs, UK

11

Expanding Awareness of Animal Research Activities at the National Institutes of Health

[Angela Szwec](#) - National Institutes of Health, USA