

# Openness Conference 2026

Communicating the continued need for animal research

9-10 June  
2026

Location  
West Midlands,  
UK



[www.uar.org.uk/openness-conference](http://www.uar.org.uk/openness-conference)



## Programme

### Tuesday 9 June

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

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

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

## Wednesday 10 June

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

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

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

12:40 – 13:00

Panel discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch and Exhibition

**Session 7 - Engagement with diverse audiences**

14:00 - 15:30

14:00 – 14:14

**Transparency Agreements in Practice: The Open Week for Public Engagement**

**Monique Sundin and Inês Serrenho** - European Animal Research Association, UK

14:14 – 14:28

**The Quarterly Creature Feature: Chronicling care, commitment and cutting-edge science**

**Laura Cresser** - The Pirbright Institute, UK

14:28 – 14:42

**Beyond Breeding: strategic collaboration to anchor the Mauritian NHP Sector in scientific purpose**

**Anupah Makoond** - Bioculture Group, Mauritius

14:42 – 14:56

**Engaging with the public at the Glasgow Science Festival**

**Elizabeth Hurd** – University of Glasgow, UK

14:56 – 15:10

**UAR Oceania Animals in Science Photography Awards**

**Bella Lear** - Understanding Animal Research Oceania, Australia

15:10 - 15:30

Panel discussion

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  
[Solemn 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 Szwez](#) - National Institutes of Health, USA