

CICRA STRATEGY DOCUMENT FOR The Use of Animals in Research

CICRA supports medical research to find new treatments and a cure for Inflammatory Bowel Disease, a serious condition especially in children. As a member of the Association for Medical Research Charities (AMRC), CICRA abides by their guidelines. Our research strategy is to fund high quality research to better understand the disease and so improve the lives of the sufferers.

We fund different types of research as part of our strategy, including using cells grown in a lab, tissue samples, computer models and when appropriate, animals. All of these approaches, including research using animals, play an important role in the research process.

Although most research funded by CICRA does not use animals, as part of the strategy, CICRA supports the principle of using animals in research when it is absolutely necessary in order to advance understanding of serious health conditions, and to develop better treatments when there is no alternative that can be used to find out the same information without using animals.

CICRA uses expert peer review to ensure that only high-quality research is funded where the benefits to people and animal health outweigh any harm to animals.

High standards of animal welfare are important. These both minimise discomfort for the animals involved and enable researchers to get reliable results. CICRA only funds research which complies with the law and supports the principle of the 3Rs to refine, reduce and replace the use of animals in research. The majority of the public can accept that research using animals is necessary as long as there are no alternatives and suffering is minimised. However we recognise that not everybody is comfortable with the use of animals in research and through the AMRC we continually review our funding practices.

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