

Animal Research

While animal studies are a critical aspect of medical and pharmaceutical research, both for generating new breakthroughs in experimental research and to ensure optimal safety of new treatments before they are used in human subjects, animals should only be used when absolutely necessary and no recognized alternative is available. In some cases, animal testing is required by regulatory bodies and extensive efforts are put in place worldwide to accelerate the validation and acceptance of New Approach Methodologies in line with evolving medical agencies recommendations and legal framework ([Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics - Commit to a Europe Without Animal Testing](#) , [FDA Modernization Act 2.0 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#), [Opportunities for implementation of the 3Rs in EU regulation](#))

UCB's Values

UCB is committed to the 3Rs principles — Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement — in animal testing. Replacing animals in research with non-animal alternatives is not yet a given but we continuously evaluate scientific progress and legal recommendations. We challenge our ways of working with the perspective of reducing the number of animals required to achieve scientifically robust and reproducible results. We identify areas of improvement for refining procedures to minimize suffering and constantly optimize our internal standards on animal welfare.

At UCB, we are committed to only using animals when there is no reliable alternative, either because we need to generate essential information that can only be obtained from the whole body or when it is a regulatory requirement until further notice. We are dedicated to exploring innovative options for reducing the number of animals required and to refine housing conditions and experimental procedures, minimizing stress and discomfort and preserving natural behavior where possible.

UCB's Approach

All UCB's research units involved in animal studies must adhere to strict animal welfare standards and procedures, and we continually seek opportunities to enable optimal welfare of animals under our care.

Any work conducted externally on behalf of UCB is performed preferably by AAALAC-accredited service providers, a private non-profit association that promotes the human treatment of animals in science, and in any case conducted in compliance with local animal welfare legislation and UCB's guidance for animal welfare. UCB will not place animal studies in institutions where animal welfare standards are considered inadequate.

At UCB, we ensure that personnel involved with the care and use of animals are properly educated, trained, and qualified in the principles of animal welfare and all legal requirements on animal use, to support high quality science and high standards of animal well-being. Continuous education and

regular competency checks are also organized to maintain good practices in laboratory animal care and use.

Our Commitments

The 3Rs principles represent a fundamental commitment to ethical and responsible research. By following this approach, UCB commits to the objective evaluation of existing alternative methods, and to the development of New Approach Methodologies whenever possible, thereby rationalizing animal use at best. The approach also focuses on Reducing the number of animals involved and on Refining experimental procedures to be respectful of animal welfare. By adhering to the principles of the 3Rs, we strive for scientific innovation that is both impactful and compassionate, advancing our scientific knowledge while upholding the highest standards of animal well-being.

UCB's research sites that conduct animal studies follow local Animal Welfare and Ethics Committees rules that carefully consider whether the use of animals for research activities is necessary and justified, whether an appropriate alternative to animal exists and should be used instead, and whether any potential suffering has been adequately suppressed or at least minimized. We ensure that our sites are in full compliance with appropriate local regulations on the use of animals for scientific research, and we welcome any site visit by authorities to demonstrate that high animal welfare standards are established. Our research sites also signed their respective national Transparency Agreements in collaboration with the European Animal Research Association ([EARA](#)) to commit to provide public information on animal use.

UCB is committed to the responsible care of laboratory animals, and we regularly engage with organizations that promote and define high welfare standards ([AFSTAL](#), [BCLAS](#), [FELASA](#), [EFPIA](#), [LASA](#), [NC3RS](#)). Since 2014, our Belgian research facility in Braine l'Alleud is accredited by AAALAC International. This accreditation represents a label of quality and high professionalism in terms of animal care and use and reflects our willingness for continuous improvement of our internal standards. By championing ethical standards and participating in such vital discussions, we aim to shape a more compassionate and ethical scientific landscape.