

Poster abstract: *Nanotechnology – Towards reducing animal testing* conference

NC3Rs – Using the 3Rs to support science, innovation and animal welfare in the biosciences

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The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) was established in 2004 by the UK Government to be a catalyst and focus for the development and implementation of the 3Rs (Replacement, Refinement and Reduction) – the ethical principles which underpin the humane use of animals in scientific research and safety testing. Bringing together stakeholders in academia, industry, Government and parliamentarians, regulators, research funders and animal welfare groups, the NC3Rs is an independent scientific organisation which advances the 3Rs by funding laboratory research, raising awareness of the 3Rs, improving access to 3Rs information and fostering collaborations which bring together expertise and resources.

In addition to funding research, the NC3Rs run a number of office-led initiatives to highlight and raise awareness of the 3Rs and to identify opportunities to develop strategies for their implementation in specific priority areas. One such priority area is the potential of technology platforms to reduce or replace animal use in basic research and safety testing. The NC3Rs is developing a programme of work to draw attention to the potential of tissue engineering as a means to replace animals and it is anticipated that a similar programme will be developed for other technologies, such as nanotechnology and imaging, for example.