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60 Years of the Three Rs and Their Impact on Animal Welfare

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Message from the Guest Editors

Laboratory animals are used for many scientific purposes, including ‘basic’ biology, safety testing, and medical and veterinary research. The ethical and animal welfare concerns associated with animal use are widely recognized, and investment into humane alternatives is increasing, but full replacement is currently impossible and over 100 million animals per year are used globally.

Laboratory animal science, a multidisciplinary branch of science contributing to the quality of animal experiments and to laboratory animal welfare, began in the 1950s. Growing recognition that animals are not just ‘research tools’, and better welfare means better science, led to the concept of the Three R’s—replacement, reduction, and refinement—defined by Russell and Burch in 1959. This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Three Rs!

We invite submissions on current good-practice and/or evaluation studies, as well as articles reviewing Three Rs achievements in specific areas, or taking a forward look, in any research field or species. Submissions on ethical implications of the Three Rs, and concepts such as the culture of care, are also welcome.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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