Are Animal Models Needed to Discover, Develop and Test Pharmaceutical Drugs for Humans in the 21st Century?

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Despite decades of research, much of which has focused on animal studies, humans continue to suffer from a multiplicity of diseases for which there are no treatments. It is now clear that insights from animal studies frequently fail to translate to humans, explaining the very high failure rate observed when new medicines are evaluated in clinical trials. In addition, there is evidence that animal studies are frequently conducted poorly, meaning that no clear conclusions may be drawn from them. Some claim that if the quality of animal studies was improved and animal models more faithfully captured the relevant human disease, then these models would deliver clinical benefits. Others argue that we need to focus on human-relevant research, pointing to developments in human biology that have yielded *in vitro* and *in silico* techniques capable of providing novel insights into human disease mechanisms, as well as human-relevant disease models for drug development. A key question is whether there is value in refining animal models, or whether these should be relinquished in favour of human-focused approaches. Original manuscripts addressing this point are invited for this special issue.

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Special issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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