



Workshop 4.3

Search strategies – user requirements

Lecture

Overview of the regulatory requirements for the consideration of alternatives

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This presentation will cover the development in the United States of the requirement for the principal investigator to consider alternatives to procedures likely to cause pain and/or distress in animals. Regulations and requirements in other countries to consider the 3Rs of Russell and Burch (replacement, reduction and refinement) will also be presented.

A review of a survey conducted by USDA in 2000 to assess the impact of our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee regulations, as well as a review of the current inspection report citations involving the consideration of alternatives in animal use proposals will demonstrate the types of problems associated with enforcing this regulation.

A suggested list of “best practices” that may be utilised to prevent or control these types of problems will lead to an audience discussion.

Topics for discussion may include:

- 1) Ways to measure the impact of the researchers' consideration of alternatives.
- 2) Best methods for distribution of information on potential alternatives to researchers and Committees.
- 3) How to encourage the sharing within industry of information on alternatives to animal use in regulatory testing.



Lecture

Effective alternatives search strategies: International perspective for compliance

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In the member states of the EU, animal welfare legislation allows scientists to conduct an animal experiment only if no other scientifically satisfactory method is reasonably and practicably available. The Animal Welfare Act in the US requires that scientists search for and consider alternatives to any procedures that may cause pain or distress. While these legislative requirements appear straightforward, compliance with a sincere effort to meet the intent is challenging. The research scientists and the institutional review committees endeavour to meet regulations without always fully understanding the best and most productive approach.

Specific strategies and techniques to be used when searching for alternatives and welfare information will be presented,

together with a discussion of database selection and access. Resources and strategies available to researchers having only limited library support will be emphasised. Guidelines and suggestions on how to search for all Three Rs, with examples and templates, will be presented in an effort to support efficient and effective compliance. Resources covered will include those organised by the UC Centre for Animal Alternatives, http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Animal_Alternatives/main.htm and indexed by the National Library of Medicine, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>.