

Basel Declaration Society

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE «BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY»

In the spirit of the Declaration of Helsinki, which has brought about major ethical progress in the field of clinical human research, the «Basel Declaration» reflects the self-commitment of its signatories to conduct research involving animal experimentation according to high ethical principles such as the «3R».

The Basel Declaration Society was founded on October 5th, 2011. Its members are research scientists specialising in the life sciences, and institutions active in research in the biological and biomedical sectors.

In Europe and elsewhere legislators are under severe pressure to change laws governing the use of animals in scientific research. Whereas some of the resulting new regulations can contribute to improve the well-being of experimental animals, the «Basel Declaration Society» is concerned that they also include numerous regulations and bureaucratic hurdles that are not based on scientific facts and severely hinder research without significantly enhancing the welfare of the experimental animals.

The «Basel Declaration Society» understands itself as a representation of those members of the scientific community who recognise the significance of ethically conducted animal experimentation in basic research.

The members of the «Basel Declaration Society» understand the need for and their responsibility in communicating the scope of their activities in an open and transparent manner.

BECOME A MEMBER: basel-declaration.org



The aim of the «Basel Declaration Society» is to establish the «Basel Declaration» as an international ethical baseline within the scientific community, thereby enhancing public confidence in biomedical research involving experimental animals, while promoting communication between researchers and the public as a whole.

The «Basel Declaration Society» promotes the Basel Declaration and contributes to the transparency and communication the declaration advocates by contributing to suitable projects.

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BASEL DECLARATION

A call for more trust, transparency and communication on animal research

Adopted on November 29, 2010 on the occasion of the first Basel conference «Research at a Crossroads»

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

We, the undersigned, shall:

1. Respect and protect the animals entrusted to us and not inflict unnecessary pain, suffering, or harm to them by adhering to highest standards of experimental design and animal care.
2. Consider carefully whether research involving animals addresses questions of importance that cannot be answered using alternative methods.
3. Strive to minimize the number of animals used for research and use the most suitable species to achieve the intended gain of knowledge.
4. Encourage collaboration to avoid repetition of animal experiments.
5. Implement the highest standards for protection of environment and public health.
6. Balance the interests of patients and society with our responsibility towards the animals when developing genetically modified animals.
7. Implement the highest standards of education and training for all persons who work with animals and monitor their compliance with standards on a regular basis.
8. Adequately recognize the important engagement of scientists in their efforts to promote the public understanding of science.
9. Promote the dialogue concerning animal welfare in research by transparent and fact-based communications to the public.
10. Provide advice based on scientific knowledge and expertise to political decision makers and government authorities on issues of research involving animals and their welfare.

We, the undersigned,

1. Stress that biomedical research cannot be separated into 'basic' and 'applied' research; it is rather a continuum stretching from studies of fundamental physiological processes to an understanding of the principles of disease and the development of therapies.
2. Encourage free and transparent communication to avoid unnecessary duplication of research.
3. Insist that necessary research involving animals, including nonhuman primates, be allowed now and in the future.
4. Ask that new laws and regulations only be introduced when they are the result of an objective, democratic discourse that is based on facts.
5. Request that society and lawmakers condemn the acts of radical groups that resort to unlawful means or violence against the research community under the pretense of animal protection.
6. Invite representatives of animal welfare organizations to discuss openly all important issues with the research community.
7. Encourage efforts to increase science education in public schools.
8. Ask opinion makers, the media and teachers to discuss sensitive issues concerning research involving animal research in an impartial manner and to promote a balanced dialogue with researchers.

Sign the Basel Declaration (free)
basel-declaration.org

