

BREAST CANCER UK POLICY ON ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

Breast Cancer UK does not support research projects which involve animal experiments or samples derived from animal experiments.

The [3Rs principles](#) of Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of the use of animals in research, are guiding principles that underpin research practices in the UK. Effectively they state that researchers should seek to replace animals with non-animal alternatives wherever possible; keep animal numbers to a minimum; and for animals which are used, keep suffering to a minimum.

Breast Cancer UK is supportive of the 3Rs principles and supports the AMRC's [position statement](#) on the use of animals in research. The 3Rs principles provide guidelines for replacement of animal use in research, which include the use of "human volunteers, tissues and cells". However, in relation to its scientific funding programme, Breast Cancer UK will only support research that adheres to the first of these: Replacement. **We do not fund projects that involve any live animal experimentation.** Furthermore, **we do not fund projects that use samples derived from animal experiments** (for example, samples from tissue banks where animal research was conducted to obtain such samples). Although we recognise this material will not involve live animal experiments, the samples will have been taken from live animals undergoing experimentation. Whilst this kind of resource is consistent with the 3Rs policy, it is not consistent with our interpretation of the concept of replacement. In relation to scientific consumables that are originally derived from animals such as antibodies and serums for cell culture, we accept their usage if no reasonable alternative is available however this should be made clear in any application for funding.

Breast Cancer is committed to promoting and encouraging an ethical approach to scientific research. Our policy on funding research will be kept under constant review.

FOETAL AND STEM CELLS

Breast Cancer UK considers grant applications that use human stem cells and will consider those that use foetal tissue, if the Independent Scientific Review Panel and the Science and Health Education Committee agree that this is the best research method available, no other alternatives exist, and the research will help us to better understand the impact of chemical contaminants on breast cancer risk. All funding would be subject to the necessary informed consents being obtained and all research must adhere to the MRC code of practice for the use of human stem cell lines.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The 3Rs: <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>