



Netherlands National Committee
for the protection of animals
used for scientific purposes

Symposium
Phasing out animal
experiments, the next steps:
Applying openness, scientific
justification and transparent
reporting

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Committee for the protection of
animals used for scientific purposes



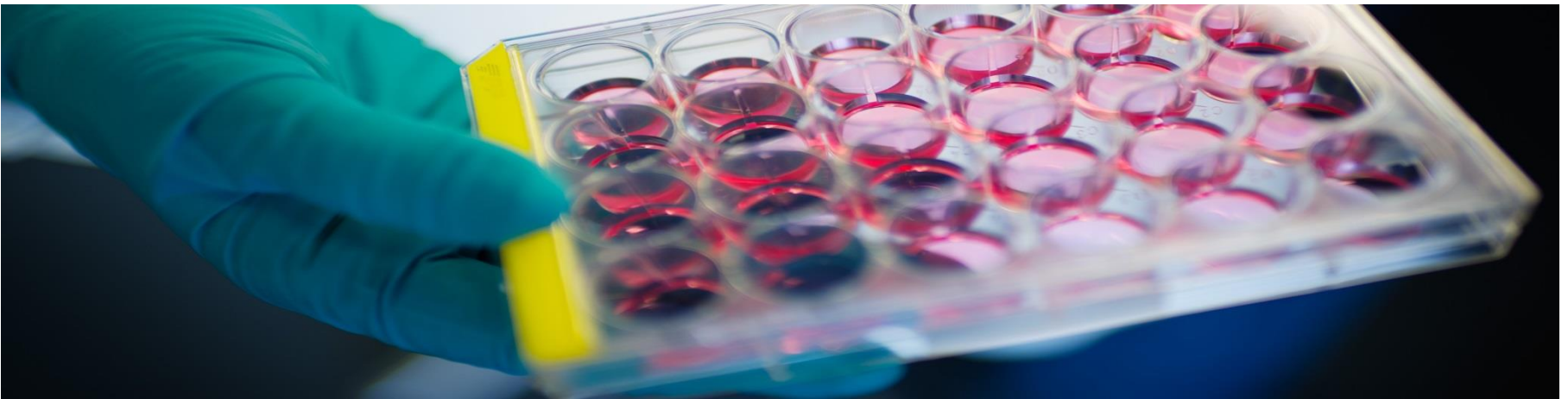
The Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (NCad)

- European Directive 2010/63/EU, Article 49
- Established on 18 December 2014
- Advising Competent Authorities and Animal Welfare Bodies
- Exchange information on the operation of Animal Welfare Bodies



Our goal

To achieve visible improvements in the application of the 3Rs life sciences and education, both at national and international level





Membership



Coenraad Hendriksen
Henriëtte Bout
Jan-Bas Prins
Pieter Roelfsema
Reineke Hameleers
Wim de Leeuw
Herman Koëter



Our tasks

Providing solicited and unsolicited opinions and advice to:

- the Minister of Agriculture,
- the Competent Authority for ethical evaluation and authorisation of scientific procedures involving animals (CCD) and
- Animal experimentation committees
- the Animal Welfare Bodies (IvD) regarding the acquisition, breeding, housing, care and use of animals in procedures, as well as about alternatives to animal procedures



Our tasks

- Encouraging the development, acceptance and use of alternatives to animal procedures, both at national and international level
- Disseminating best practices for the use of animals in animal procedures and alternatives (3Rs)
- Exchanging information with the national committees of other Member States about practices, guidance, assessment of project proposals, and about the dissemination of best practices within the EU
- Supporting communication with (and between) professionals in the field of animal procedures and alternatives, and communicating information about animal procedures and alternatives to the public



Point on the horizon: A world of scientific progress without the need of experimental animals

Untill then the following should apply:

- Ensure that animal testing is only considered if no alternative approach is available
- Start with a thorough documented **synthesis of evidence** to justify the need for the research
- If justified, develop the project proposal and involve the animal welfare body
- Submit the proposal to the competent authority for evaluation and authorization
- The animal experimentation committee advices the competent authority on the scientific and ethical aspects of the proposal



Achievements

- Alternative methods for killing laboratory animals
- Experiments in cats and dogs
- Rehoming of former laboratory animals
- Preventing, recognising and relief of pain in laboratory animals
- Synthesis of Evidence in laboratory animal research
- Indicators, management and use of data for monitoring laboratory animal use and 3R alternatives (part 1 and 2)
- Genetically modified animals killed in stock



Current activities

- **Opinion on phasing out the use of experimental animals**
- Controlled food and water intake / water and food deprivation in animal studies
- Negligent use of laboratory animals





Program

10.25-10.45 The relevance of animal research in society and introduction of the concept of Synthesis of Evidence (SoE); development of a European Code of Practice *Prof. dr Pieter Roelfsema*, member of the NCad

10.45-11.00 Data sharing and accessibility of data (data mining) open access datawarehouse *Dr Ana Sofia Figueiredo*, University of Heidelberg

11.00-11.15 SHORT BREAK

11.15-11.35 Better research by applying Synthesis of Evidence *Dr Birgitte Kousholt*, Aarhus University



Program

11.35-11.55 The role of the Animal Welfare Bodies (AWB) and Competent Authorities *Dr Wim de Leeuw*, member of the NCad

11.55-12.15 Publication of research: rules and requirements/publication of negative results/raw data *Prof. dr Wolfgang Dekant*

12.15-13.00 Structured round table forum discussion between the audience, speakers and SoE working Group members

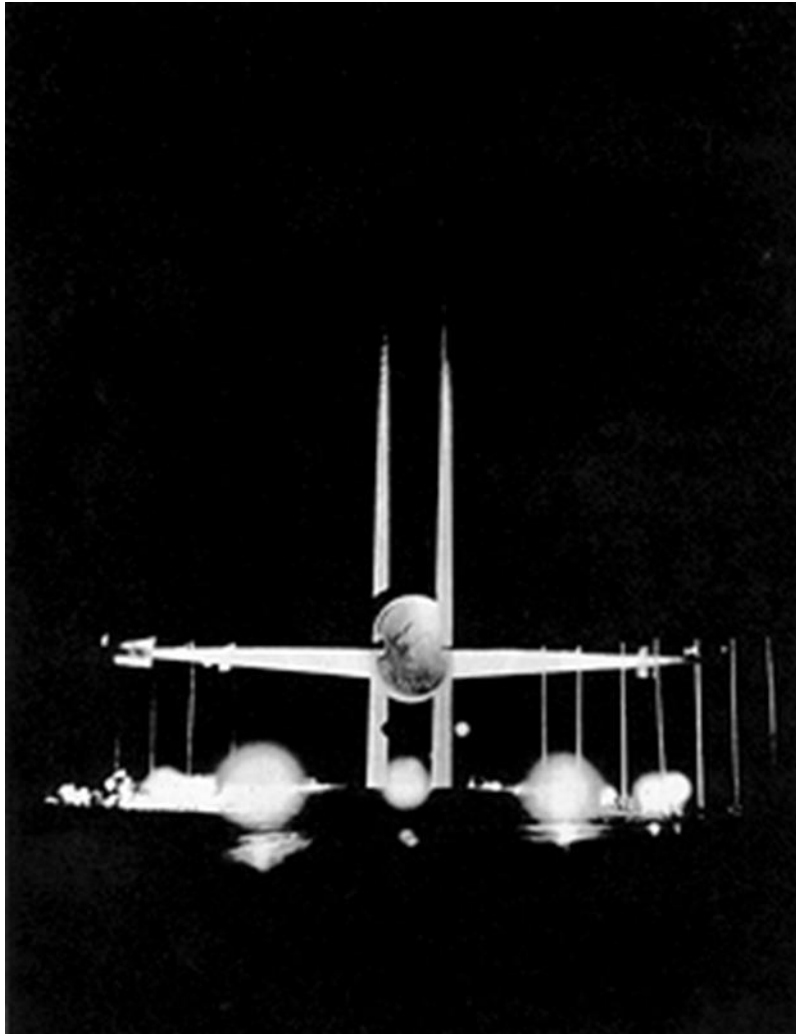
13:00-13:15 Closing of the morning session (Summarizing current viewpoints and suggestions from the audience and speakers)



Program

- CoP Synthesis of Evidence Working Group first meeting this afternoon
- If you have indicated that you want to give input to the Working Group, they will contact you on how to exchange information on progress and provide input





'Aim higher and wider'

*Motto of the 11th World
Scouts Jamboree,
Marathon, Greece, 1963*



Statements



A large percentage of animal procedures could have been prevented if systematic reviews had been applied in all cases



Conservatism within the research community and the principle of 'scientific freedom' obstructs the process towards better and more relevant research



Extensive literature research before commencing research (involving laboratory animals) is pivotal to practicing science.



Systematic reviews are always to be preferred over narrative reviews



Invested time into performing Synthesis of Evidence will pay for itself in better research results with fewer animals and less animal suffering



An international Code of Practice on Synthesis of Evidence will be helpful in reducing both the number of animals used for scientific purposes, and animal suffering



Requiring a systematic review for every animal experiment will slow down scientific progress



Animal Welfare Bodies are insufficiently supported (by the license holder of their research institute) to take on the role with regards to improving data accessibility and data sharing



Unless more effort and resources are put towards stimulating data sharing and improving the accessibility of data, synthesis of evidence will be useless



The experimental design of the animal procedures of a scientific research project should always be published according to ARRIVE Guidelines (for example, in an open access database)



Scientific journals are not interested in the publication of negative results or raw research data



More funds should be granted for retrospective evaluation of earlier carried out research projects to gain insight into the value of the research models that were applied, for the clinical situation