

## Genetic Interest Group

### **Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills boost funding to the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research**

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The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) supports today's move by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) to double funding to the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs). NC3Rs which currently receives £2.3million a year from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), will receive £5million in 2010/11 as funding is increased by approximately £1million a year.

Animals are currently only used in studies when absolutely necessary. The use of animals is an essential part of research into the many incurable or untreatable conditions supported by our member groups. Where there is no alternative, GIG supports animal based research for medicinal purposes undertaken in accordance with best practice in properly regulated research centres.

This investment will accelerate the delivery of alternative technology which, we hope, will eventually be able to replace the use of animals in research. At the same time as this development is underway the use of animals will be refined: making sure that the treatment of the animals is the best possible, that they suffer as little as possible, and they live in the best possible environment; and reduced: making sure that the use of animals is as efficient as possible, with improvements in experimental design and the use of data produced from research.

**Whilst GIG is delighted that this further investment will accelerate the progress of the 3Rs in the UK, we continue to strongly support continued research using animals where there are no alternatives. It is an essential research tool that can best deliver much needed understanding of conditions that currently lack cures or treatments.**