

# Quarterly Update

Welcome to the latest from UAR. In this update you will find news on policy and policing, the latest on the Concordat, goings on in social media, the first reports back from Oceania, dates for your diary and more. We hope you find it all useful but would love to know if there is anything we should be doing differently, so please do get in touch at [office@uar.org.uk](mailto:office@uar.org.uk).

## Openness in Animal Research: a conference to celebrate a decade of the Concordat



It is difficult to believe that we are only a year away from marking the ten-year anniversary of the launch of the Concordat on Openness in Animal Research. To mark the occasion, UAR is delighted to invite all our members and friends - all of you who have contributed so much to the success of the Concordat - to a first-of-its-kind conference dedicated to openness in animal research to be held on Thursday 2 May-Friday 3 May 2024 in the West Midlands.

The Openness in Animal Research Conference 2024 is not just for Concordat signatories. We hope to bring together colleagues from across the world who have a professional interest in openness and improving laboratory animal welfare, whether or not they have an openness agreement in place or are working towards one. The conference will be an opportunity to get together, share ideas, celebrate the achievements of the Concordat, and look forward to the next ten years.

More information will follow, including abstract submission details and registration. For now, please save the date: **Thursday 2 May-Friday 3 May 2024.**



## UAR in the news

### Camp Beagle

UAR CEO Wendy Jarrett appeared at the High Court as a witness for Marshall Bioresources in its application for a permanent injunction to limit aggressive, intrusive protests at the MBR Acres site in Cambridgeshire. Wendy was cross-examined by activist John Curtin of Camp Beagle, who has been encamped outside of MBR Acres for the best part of two years. A number of Wendy's comments in response to the cross-examination were reported in national and local media.



Wendy Jarrett's testimony at the High Court was reported in media such as the Independent

### Puppy factory

A provocatively misleading article from the Mirror about conditions at MBR Acres was given some balance by comment from Chris Magee, UAR Head of Policy. Chris was quoted at length in the article, although the angle and approach of the reporting was not adequately explained to him in advance. Chris will be pursuing the story through a complaint to IPSO, the press regulator.

### REACH reporting

The news that Cruelty Free International had failed in its Judicial Review of Home Office licensing for safety testing under REACH was represented in several media outlets as a change to the UK legislation on the use of animals for cosmetic testing. Wendy Jarrett was interviewed by BBC Radio 4's flagship news programme Today on the morning of 8 May to give the facts and explain why some new cosmetic ingredients may need to be tested under REACH.

## Policy update

### REACH and cosmetic testing

The Home Secretary has announced a temporary ban on animal licences for the manufacture of cosmetics, alongside the existing ban on developing products and ingredients, while a review of possible non-animal alternatives takes place. This follows misleading reports that policy on the use of animals for cosmetics had changed following the failure of the Cruelty Free International Judicial Review of Home Office licensing for safety testing under REACH. We are updating our website to clarify the policy situation in several areas including the use of animals for cosmetics testing, REACH and contact lens manufacture.



### COVID-19

The Parliamentary Science Innovation and Technology Select Committee is mounting an inquiry into emerging diseases and lessons from COVID-19. UAR has submitted a response to the inquiry which emphasises the importance of animal technology staff as frontline workers and the need to properly recognise the role of the sector in any future emergency.

### Public order

The government has passed the Public Order Act which gives the police new powers when engaging with protesters. The law was introduced in response to activity from environmentalist groups but may prove significant for the animal research sector as it could allow the authorities to limit disruptive activities outside of research and breeding facilities.

### Border control

Defra is consulting on a new border control regime which may have implications for the movement of live animals for research purposes. UAR is working with EARA to advance concerns about the proposal from within the biosciences sector and to lead discussions about the domestic application of the controls.

### Decapoda

Initial conversations are happening around the challenges of extending the scope of A(SP)A to include decapod crustaceans. The extension could lead to a number of difficult unintended consequences unless carefully planned. UAR is contributing to the consultations where possible.

## Information webinar for Police Commanders



UAR is working with the National Police Coordination Centre to provide training on animal rights activism

A first-of-its-kind webinar on animal rights activism for senior police commanders was run by UAR in collaboration with the National Police Coordination Centre (NPOCC) in March.

Many police officers in post today have no experience of dealing with serious animal rights activity. This webinar was a significant step towards ensuring that the force is properly prepared to deal with the rising numbers of protests against the use of animals in research. The session covered the history of animal rights extremism and the kinds of tactics used by activists, as well as the regulations that both govern and require animal research.

We are now working with NPOCC to include training and CPD sessions on this topic in the College of Policing curricula.

### UAR on social media

Our annual #MicelInResearch social media event took place in May to coincide with the ninth anniversary of the Concordat on Openness. We saw a significant amount of engagement on Twitter with a potential reach of up to 1.7 million users. You can view all of the posts from the week by searching [#MicelInResearch](#).

On Instagram we ran two takeovers with our colleagues at the Babraham Institute and Imperial College London, who each took control of our Instagram account for a day. Thank you to both organisations who produced great content which offers a unique insight into their research facilities and their work with mice. You can view both of the takeovers on our Instagram Story Highlights on the UAR [Instagram account](#).

## Concordat workshop 2023

The annual Concordat signatories' workshop was attended by representatives from every sector and, once again, demonstrated how vigorously and imaginatively the aims of the Concordat are being pursued.

The first panel discussion took on the difficult subject of increasing animal rights activism, with representatives from three universities describing their experiences and evolving strategies. We heard how early engagement can be used to head off the worst excesses of activists and how to deal with being targeted by a large animal rights group, based on recent experience. All speakers agreed that during times of activism it is more important than ever to remain open.

In the second session, Barney Reed, Senior Scientific Manager at the RSPCA, presented examples of how harms and limitations can be effectively communicated - something that many signatories struggle with - and led a revealing discussion on the subject with representatives from the University of Cambridge and the Royal Veterinary College.

Then came a shift in focus to the specific challenges faced by the commercial sector. Speakers from AstraZeneca and Charles River Laboratories described the constraints that they faced and demonstrated how they were nonetheless able to advance the Concordat aims, especially through internal and local community engagement.

Concordat signatories who are not themselves research organisations can face particular challenges. How can you be open about animal research if you do not do it? In the final session of the day, we heard about some of the imaginative ways that organisations that fund or support animal research have engaged with the Concordat, including a Parkinson's patient engagement project and an online publication developed to highlight AMS-funded animal research.

If you would like to see videos from this workshop, please get in touch with Hansika ([hramchandani@uar.org.uk](mailto:hramchandani@uar.org.uk)).

The Concordat workshop would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors



## UAR 2023 Annual Meeting

UAR's 2023 Annual Meeting will be held on 29 June at the Academy of Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

The workshop sessions at this year's meeting will focus on our strategy for 2024-27. We have gathered a wealth of information and opinions from you through our recent membership survey and the next stage will be to talk through how we would like to respond to your suggestions for our future priorities. Please join us to help shape the work that UAR will be carrying out on your behalf.

If you haven't received an invitation for the 2023 Annual Meeting, and would like to attend, please let us know.

### Photo and film



A technician at the Imperial College breeding unit models one of their mice for #MicelInResearch

At UAR we can never have enough film or photos of animals to use in communications. We are looking for members and Concordat signatories who would be willing to allow us access to their facilities to film and photograph their animals. We are especially in need of rabbits, chickens, sheep, cows, guinea pigs, xenopus, cats, and dogs. Can you help? Please contact Mary Harvie ([mharvie@uar.org.uk](mailto:mharvie@uar.org.uk)).

Thank you to everyone who has worked with us so far this year, including the Universities of Oxford and Sheffield for their primates and zebrafish and Imperial College for organising a last-minute trip to their mouse breeding unit to take much-needed photos for our [#MicelInResearch](#) event.

### UAR Oceania update

Following over a year of planning and preparation, UAR Oceania is up and running in Central Melbourne.

Bella Lear, CEO of UAR Oceania, will be working with the University of Wollongong, New South



Wales, in June, as they unveil a memorial statue to their research animals. At the end of the month, Bella will be presenting on the *Importance of Internal Communications* at The Animal Welfare Symposium, which will be held at Deakin University in Victoria.



Bella Lear, CEO UAR Oceania, shows us the view from the window of her new office in Melbourne, Australia

To support the [New Zealand Openness Agreement](#), which recently published its first annual report, and the Australian Openness Agreement, which is expected to be launched soon, the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and the Australia and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association (ANZLAA) have funded UAR Oceania to deliver a series of workshops on talking about animal research. These workshops will run throughout Oceania this year, including at the ANZLAA Conference in Melbourne.

University of Auckland became the first New Zealand research institution to join UAR Oceania this month. The University of Sydney was the first Australian research organisation to join UAR Oceania, signing up at the end of 2022.

For more information about UAR Oceania contact Bella Lear ([ajlear@uaroceania.org](mailto:ajlear@uaroceania.org)).

## Goodbyes

It is sad to report that we are saying goodbye to Richard Scrase, Head of Online Communication, who is retiring after 13 years heading UAR's video production and online comms, transforming the representation of animal research on YouTube and beyond.



Richard Scrase preparing to Whike away into the sunset

Before coming to UAR, Richard had worked for many years in science radio and writing. In fact, the offer to join UAR interrupted an around-Europe tour by electric car for a BBC radio series to highlight the potential of electric vehicles, long before Tesla was a twinkle in a Muskian eye.

In his time at UAR, Richard has made more than 400 video clips which have had 1.6 million views on

YouTube alone. His dedication to animal research videography is only matched by his passion for environmental issues, wildlife and, especially, bicycles and other related mechanical things. We will all be watching out for his future adventures riding - or perhaps sailing - his Whike (see photo) up and down the Outer Hebrides. We will miss you Richard.

## Animal research numbers



Home Office statistics on the use of laboratory animals such as these are published in July

Join us in July, when the Home Office's annual report is published, to proactively talk about animal research numbers. Help us control the narrative by publishing your 2022 animal research statistics on your websites and social media accounts using [#AnimalStats](#).

Information can include species, numbers and even severity. If you are a funder, you can report the proportion of your research grants that involved animals, and which species these included.

For advice on publishing your statistics, please contact Hannah ([hhobson@uar.org.uk](mailto:hhobson@uar.org.uk)).

## Coming events and activities

29 June: [UAR Annual Meeting 2023](#)

5 July and 12 July: [University of Manchester tour of animal facilities for Concordat signatories](#)

6 October: [UAR members' workshop on public engagement](#)

20 October: [UAR members' workshop on policy](#)

15 November: [UAR members; workshop on filming with your smartphone](#)

17 November: [UAR members workshop on debating](#)

4 December: [Openness Awards and Paget lecture](#)

2 May-3 May 2024: [Openness in Animal Research: a conference to celebrate a decade of the Concordat](#)

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact Hannah ([hhobson@uar.org.uk](mailto:hhobson@uar.org.uk)) or to register for UAR's annual meeting in June, please contact Agnes ([office@uar.org.uk](mailto:office@uar.org.uk)).