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## Animal Research

While animal studies are a critical aspect of medical research, both for generating new breakthroughs in experimental research and to ensure optimal safety of new treatments before they are used in human subjects, animals should only be used when absolutely necessary, and no recognized alternative is available. In some cases, animal testing can be required by regulatory bodies and extensive efforts are put in place worldwide to gradually implement new approaches.

## UCB's Values

UCB is committed to the 3Rs principles in animal testing: Replacing animals in research with non-animal alternatives, reducing the number of animals required to achieve scientifically robust results and refining procedures to minimize suffering and optimize animal welfare.

At UCB, we are committed to only using animals when there is no alternative, either because we need to generate essential information that can only be obtained from the whole body or because it is a regulatory authority legal requirement. We are dedicated to exploring all options for reducing the number of animals required and to refine housing conditions and experimental procedures for minimizing stress and discomfort and preserving natural behavior where possible.

## UCB's Approach

All UCB's research units involved in animal studies must adhere to strict animal welfare standards and policies, and we continually monitor for opportunities to enable optimal welfare of animals under our care.

Any work conducted externally on behalf of UCB is performed preferably by AAALAC-accredited service providers, and in any case conducted in compliance with local animal welfare legislation and UCB's guidelines for animal welfare. UCB will not place animal studies in institutions where animal welfare standards are considered inadequate.

At UCB, we ensure that personnel involved with the care and use of animals are properly educated, trained, and qualified in the principles of animal welfare and all legal requirements on animal use, to support high quality science and high standards of animal well-being. Continued education and regular competency checks are also organized to maintain good practices in laboratory animal care and use.

## Our Commitments

The 3Rs principle — Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement — represent a fundamental commitment to ethical and responsible research. By following this approach, UCB commits to the Replacement of animal testing with alternative methods whenever possible, thereby rationalizing



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animal use. The approach also focuses on Reducing the number of animals involved and on Refining experimental procedures to be respectful of animal welfare. By adhering to the principles of the 3Rs, we strive for scientific innovation that is both impactful and compassionate, advancing our knowledge while upholding the highest standards of animal well-being.

UCB's research sites that conduct animal studies follow local Animal Welfare and Ethics Committees rules that carefully consider whether the use of animals for research activities is necessary and justified, whether an appropriate alternative to animal exists and should be used instead, and whether any potential suffering has been adequately minimized. We ensure that our sites are in full compliance with appropriate local regulations on the use of animals for scientific research, and are subject to regular site visits by authorities, often unannounced, to ensure that high animal welfare standards are maintained. Our research sites also signed their respective national Transparency Agreements and provide public information on animal use.

UCB is committed to the responsible treatment of laboratory animals, and we regularly engage with organizations that promote and ensure high welfare standards (BCLAS, EARA, EFPIA). Since 2014, our Belgian research facility is accredited by AAALAC International, a private non-profit association that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science. This accreditation represents a label of quality and high professionalism in terms of animal care and use and reflects our willingness for continuous improvement of our internal standards.

As part of our dedication to advancing responsible research practices, we proudly subscribe to EFPIA and PhRMA Animal Research policies, actively engaging in conversations with industry about the future of animal research. By championing ethical standards and participating in these vital discussions, we aim to contribute to shaping a more compassionate and ethical scientific landscape.

