

Animal Research

While animal studies are a critical aspect of medical research, both for generating new breakthroughs in experimental research and to ensure the maximum safety of new treatments before they are used in human subjects, animals should only be used when they are absolutely necessary, and no recognized alternative is available. In some cases, animal testing can be required by law.

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.

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 reducing the number of animals required to achieve scientifically robust results where possible.

UCB's Approach

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

UCB also ensures that any work conducted externally on our behalf is performed preferably by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC)-accredited service providers or at a minimum, conducted in compliance with local animal welfare legislation and with 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 must be educated, trained, and qualified in the principles of animal welfare and legal requirements on animal use, to help ensure quality science and high standards of animal well-being. Continued education and regular competency checks are also organized to maintain proper laboratory animal care and use.

Our Commitments

The 3Rs approach—Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement—represents a fundamental commitment to ethical and responsible research. By following this approach, UCB advocates for the Replacement of animal testing with alternative methods whenever possible, thereby minimizing animal use. The approach also focuses on Reducing the number of animals involved and refining

experimental procedures to ensure their welfare. By adhering to the principles of the 3Rs, we strive for scientific progress that is both impactful and compassionate, advancing our understanding while upholding the highest standards of animal well-being.

All of UCB's research sites that conduct animal studies have local Animal Welfare and Ethics Committees that carefully consider whether the use of animals for research activities is necessary and justified, whether an appropriate animal alternative 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 sign their respective national transparency Agreements.

UCB is committed to the responsible treatment of laboratory animals and we work with organizations to ensure high welfare standards, such as the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International which have accredited our Belgian research facility since 2014. This private non-profit association represents a label of quality and high professionalism in terms of animal care and use.

As part of our dedication to advancing responsible research practices, we proudly subscribe to EFPIA and PhRMA Animal Research policies, actively engaging in industry conversations 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.