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The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org.

FEDERAL

NIH Publishes Nonhuman Primate (NHP) Evaluation and Analysis

The [Revised Draft of the Final Report](#) was released on July 12. As a follow-up to a similar study conducted by NIH in [2018](#), the report acknowledged that NHPs are invaluable in biomedical research due to the similarity in physiological systems to those of humans, aiding studies in disease, behavior and aging. It also addressed the ongoing challenges of providing an adequate supply of nonhuman primates (NHP) for research conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health. The report's findings are intended to inform NIH strategies to benefit the greater biomedical research community.

The study consisted of four components.

- *An identification of major NHP service providers in the United States and their capabilities.*
- *An analysis of historical NHP usage trends from NIH awardees and others.*
- *An assessment of the current NHP landscape and forecast of future demands for NHP use reported by major NHP service providers.*
- *A survey of NIH-supported intramural and extramural NHP users to characterize consumer demand.*

The study concluded “The reliance on external sources of NHPs is not sustainable. The persistent high demand for NHPs will continue to outstrip availability, and if this is not addressed by expanding domestic NHP colonies, it will limit the pace of biomedical research innovation and advancement for years.” It identified several challenges that exist to address the current situation including increasing the current level of funding, the need to address aging infrastructure, and personnel shortages such as general and specialized veterinary support and staff knowledgeable in the care of NHPs.

The report identified a consistent increase in biomedical research utilization of NHPs from FY18 to FY22. While the report addressed NIH-supported research using NHPs, it acknowledged that contract research organizations (CROs) and private organizations drove this growth. NABR believes that the suggestions made to address the challenges identified are applicable to all NHPs used in biomedical research. Those suggestions include “collaborative efforts, such as data sharing and efficient resource allocation, which are essential to most effectively navigate the evolving NHP landscape”. This will require “prioritizing investments and leveraging collective expertise” across the entire NHP biomedical research community to assure a sustainable future of NHP resources.

Importantly, the report concluded that the need for NHPs in research will continue for years to come; a message that needs to be heeded by policy makers writ large.

This marks the third major report in recent years highlighting the shortage of NHPs for research and the need for solutions moving forward: [2018 report](#), [NAS report](#), [this one](#).

Senator Durbin (D-IL) Introduces the American Cures Act

On July 31, 2024, Senator Durbin introduced the *American Cures Act* to create mandatory funds for breakthrough research at America's top research agencies, allowing the U.S. to remain a leader in development and discovery for decades to come.

The American Cures Act would overcome the uncertainty of the annual discretionary appropriations process—in which critical investments for biomedical and scientific research risk being crowded out—and instead set a steady growth rate in mandatory federal spending for biomedical research conducted at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Each year, the bill would increase medical research funding for these agencies at a rate of medical inflation plus five percent.

The full press release is available [here](#).

Bill text can be accessed [here](#).

USDA's FY2023 Annual Report Data: More Animals Reported by Labs in 2023 Than in 2022

On August 14, 2024, Rise for Animals posted their [analysis](#) of the recently released USDA's [FY2023 Annual Report](#) data. In their analysis they reported "1,048 animal research facilities reported exploiting 1,609,186 animals in 2023" and noted that this was 169,758 or 12% more than were used in FY2022. Their analysis included those animals reported in column B which are animals being bred, conditioned, or held but not yet used for research. Since this number does not accurately reflect the number of animals "used" in research, NABR

crunched the data available in the Public Search Tool for FY2023. In reviewing that information, we noticed that the data included annual reports from 43 Agricultural Research Facilities (ARS). Those reports included 298,851 animals of which 298,763 should not have been included, because they either involved species not covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) or the animals were used for agricultural research. When those animals are excluded from the total, the number of animals used in research was 650,701. For FY2022 that number was 653,751. So, instead of an increase in the number of animals used, the number of animals used in biomedical research in FY2023 has decreased.

NIH Reopens Comment Period for Draft Public Access Policy and Draft Supplemental Guidance

On August 23, 2024, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced that it has extended the public comment period to August 30th to ensure that all interested parties have the ability to submit comments.

Background: *On June 18, 2024, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) published a request for public comments on the NIH Draft Public Access Policy and two supplemental draft guidance documents regarding government use license and rights and costs for publications. The NIH Draft Public Access Policy builds upon NIH's long history of providing public access to scholarly publications resulting from the research it supports, and it proposes additional steps to accelerate access.*

More information and the link to submit comments is available [here](#).

Upcoming OLAW Conversations Series

OLAW will hold its next conversation series entitled, "Empowering Change: lessons from case studies on engagement and management," on **Sept. 19, from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. ET.**

This is the first session in the virtual series of interactive sessions on change management. Speakers will discuss practical and helpful change management tools and their application in various scenarios.

Speakers include:

- Lauren Jaebker Lueth, M.S., Social Scientist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Elaine Kim, B.S. CPIA, Sr. Technical Professional, KBR/Wyle LLC

More information and a link to register is available [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NABR Webinar: “Current and Future Challenges Facing Biomedical Research”

Please join us on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 12:30 p.m. EST for the 61st NABR webinar when Matt Bailey, President of NABR and FBR; Brandon Morton, NABR’s Director of Government Affairs; and Taylor Bennett, NABR’s Senior Scientific Advisor, sit down to discuss the “Current and Future Challenges Facing Biomedical Research.” NABR is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated solely to advocating for sound public policy that recognizes the vital role animals play in biomedical research. In that role, NABR provides the unified voice for the scientific community on legislative and regulatory matters affecting laboratory animal research at the federal level. FBR provides valuable communication expertise promoting public understanding and support for biomedical research to address the challenges and variety of tactics used by those opposed to animals in biomedical research. These tactics include calling into question the validity of animal models, the money spent to support that research, an increased number of legislative efforts at the federal, state and local level, and targeted campaigns against specific areas of research. In

addition, these groups have effectively weaponized the use of FOIA and state open records acts to target institutions and individuals. In this webinar, recent legislative and regulatory issues will be reviewed, and animal rights campaigns will be highlighted to share lessons learned for addressing the challenges facing the research community.

Registration is available [here](#).

Apply Now: 2025 AAALAC International Fellowship Award

The AAALAC International Fellowship recognizes two outstanding individuals each year. The AALAS or CALAS (Canada) registered winner will receive a week-long guest visit at prestigious biomedical research facilities in the U.K., plus complimentary attendance at the U.K.'s largest laboratory animal science and technology meeting. All registration, travel, lodging, meals, and out-of-pocket expenses are covered.

Timeline for the AALAS/CALAS Registered Participants nomination process:

Call for nominations: June, July, August, September

Nomination package submission deadline: October 1

Selection Committee reviews nomination packages: October-November

Award recipients notified: December 1

The online application is available [here](#).

11th Annual 3Rs Symposium: Practical Approaches to Each of the 3Rs

This symposium will focus on reduction, refinement, and replacement methods to improve laboratory animal welfare while maintaining or improving scientific results. Sessions will discuss opportunities to do more with less, refinement techniques for research involving pain and distress, and how to use the 3Rs to improve efficiency and rigor. The goal of the symposium is to bring together

experts and practitioners to share information and discuss new and practical approaches to the 3Rs.

Sept. 4-5 and 11-12 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET | Virtual

The symposium will take place over four days and is jointly organized by:

- The Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
- The Department of Molecular and Comparative Pathobiology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- The USDA's Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) at the National Agricultural Library
- The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), National Institutes of Health.

Registration is available [here](#).

Register Now for the Winter 2024 SCAW Annual Winter Conference

Registration is open for the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) winter conference. SCAW two-day conferences provide key findings and advances in research animal welfare, explore policy and management issues related to IACUCs, and develop awareness of humane care and use of agricultural animals in research. Topics to be discussed include:

- New Approach Methodologies (NAMs): Beyond the Buzz – Applications and Impact
- Can Virtual Technology Lessen the IACUC Burden
- Legal Tips for Internal Compliance and External Reporting to Federal Agencies: What to Do and What Not to Do
- Are You Up to Date with OLAW, APHIS and AAALAC International: Q & A for You and Me
- Extrinsic Factors: Can We Talk About the People Problem
- Lights, Vibration, and More: How Extrinsic Factor Affect the Animals in the Research Facility
- The Intersection of Non-Compliance and Research Misconduct: Going From Bad to Worse
- Sound Public Policy

Dec. 9-10, 2024 | San Antonio, TX | In-Person

Early registration ends Oct. 15, 2024. The hotel deadline is Nov. 15, 2024.

Registration is available [here](#).

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