

OUR MISSION IS CLEAR

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine works to protect and enhance the health of both people and animals.

Our priorities include:

- Shifting research away from animals to human-relevant methods
- Bringing nutrition into medical education and practice
- Working with policymakers and industry to adopt alternatives to chemical tests on animals
- Conducting clinical research on healthful diets that builds the foundation for the role of nutrition in medicine
- Educating and empowering people to take control of their health through our Kickstart, Food for Life, and other nutrition programs

The Physicians Committee is a nonprofit organization at the forefront of scientific and medical advancement. Our members are physicians, scientists, and citizens concerned with improving public health and eliminating animal suffering.

We work with experts in industry, academia, congress, and government agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to increase the use and availability of human-relevant research methods.

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5100 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Ste. 400, Washington, DC 20016

Phone: 202-686-2210 Email: pcrm@pcrm.org

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PhysiciansCommittee
for Responsible Medicine

Advocates for Effective and Ethical
Research, Testing, Education, and Policy

A MORE HUMANE AND EFFICIENT APPROACH

Method	What is it?	What is it used for?
In Vitro	Cell or tissue samples donated and prepared for laboratory study	Regulatory research, toxicology testing, dermal and ocular corrosivity, and irritation tests for chemicals and personal products
Microfluidic Chips	Microchips lined with living human cells grown to mimic the structure and function of human organs and organ systems	Drug development, disease modeling, and personalized medicine
Computer (in silico) Modeling	Computer-based techniques that simulate human biology and the progression of diseases	Assessing a substance's probability of being hazardous based on its similarity to existing substances and human biology
Imaging Studies	Advanced tools for seeing inside the human body, even to the level of a single neuron	Studying neurological disorders and brain function and drug effects
Microdosing	A preclinical safety testing technique for drugs that administers small, subtherapeutic doses to humans	Observing how a drug is absorbed and metabolized in the human body

PROBLEMS WITH RESEARCH ON ANIMALS

The use of animals in research, testing, and education is troubling for a variety of reasons. Animals suffer unnecessarily in invasive experiments that are poorly predictive of human health.

Science

Animals have physiological, anatomical, and genetic differences from humans that impede the translation of research findings derived from animal biology. For instance, more than 95 percent of drugs that pass animal tests fail in human clinical trials.

Ethics

All animals, from mice to chimpanzees, are intelligent, sentient beings. Even routine handling procedures cause stress to animals in laboratories; no experiments are off-limits. These stressors also contribute to the unreliability of animal methods.

Public Health

Research on animals wastes precious resources. The National Institutes of Health spends \$12-14 billion annually—nearly half its research budget—on animal research. Yet cures for our most dangerous diseases don't materialize. Research funds would be used more efficiently if invested in the development and application of human-relevant methods.

The Physicians Committee is leading a movement toward human-relevant scientific research.

We're working on:

- Increasing the availability of human tissues for research
- Developing resources for emerging scientists working with nonanimal methods
- Modernizing FDA and EPA regulations
- Training regulators and industry scientists
- Replacing the use of animals in medical education and training