

The Aims and Activities of FRAME

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Chairman of the Trustees FRAME

FRAME (the Found for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) was founded in London in 1969, in the belief that the scale of live animal experimentation was unacceptable and should not be allowed to continue. However, FRAME recognises that the immediate and total abolition of all animal experiments is not possible if medical research is to continue and the remaining diseases which lessen the quality of human and animal life are to be overcome, and if new consumer products, drugs and industrial and agricultural chemicals are to be adequately tested in attempts to identify potential hazards to human and animal health.

FRAME advocates the *Three Rs approach* to this problem, believing that the most immediate prospects are for *reducing* the numbers of animals used through better science and better experimental design, and *refining* procedures so that the suffering of the animals necessarily used is minimised, while the long-term hope of eliminating the need for live animal experiments lies in the proper development, validation, evaluation and adoption of *replacement* alternative methods.

FRAME is a charitable trust, controlled solely by six honorary *Trustees*, who employ scientific and administrative staff to work in five main areas, namely, legislative and regulatory reform, scientific research, publications, specific campaigns, and public education.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

In 1981, the Trustees established a FRAME *Research Programme*. As a result of support given by a number of industrial companies, other charities and the first grant given speci-

fically for replacement alternatives research by a British Government, work is in progress in the following main areas: cytotoxicology; target organ toxicology; and the identification of potential teratogens, neurotoxins, immunotoxins and carcinogens. This work is being undertaken by research groups at the University of Nottingham, the University of Surrey, Hatfield Polytechnic and Huntingdon Research Centre, in collaboration with FRAME staff scientists.

The following companies are currently supporting the FRAME research programme: Avon Cosmetics Limited, Boots, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Elida Gibbs Limited, Fisons Pharmaceuticals, Gillette UK Limited, Glaxo Research, Hoechst UK Limited, Huntingdon Research Centre Limited, Johnson & Johnson Limited, Marks & Spencer plc, Millipore Corporation, L'Oréal, Pfizer Limited, Reckitt & Colman plc, Rhône-Poulenc Limited, Rimmel International Limited, Ropak Laboratories, Sensiq Cosmetics, SmithKline Beecham, Superdrug Stores plc, Tesco Stores Limited and Unilever Research.

FRAME is running a number of *validation trials* for replacement alternative methods, and its own laboratories receive sets of coded chemicals from industrial companies (including Abbot Laboratories, Alberto-Culver Company Limited, Avon Cosmetics Limited, Peter Black Cosmetics, Galenco Limited, ICI plc, Marks & Spencer plc, L'Oréal, Reckitt & Colman plc, Rhône-Poulenc Limited, the EEC, and the US Cosmetic, Toiletry & Perfumery Association) for use in blind trials of new methods being developed by the FRAME research group.

Plans for the future include an expansion of work on alternatives in behavioural research and the establishment of training courses in *in vitro* techniques. Reports on the progress of the FRAME research groups are regularly made at scientific conferences.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES

FRAME publishes a quarterly scientific journal, *ATLA (Alternatives to Laboratory Animals)*, which has a distinguished international editorial board. With the support of an international consortium of moderate animal welfare organisations, more than 1200 copies of each issue of *ATLA* are distributed to the libraries of academic and research institutions in more than 50 countries.

FRAME also publishes an influential quarterly newsletter, *FRAME NEWS*, aimed at scientists, politicians, administrators and the informed general public. *Friends of FRAME* is published for FRAME supporters. A special newsletter for schools and colleges is to be produced in the near future.

Together with the members of *ERGATT* (European Research Group for Alternatives in Toxicity Testing), and with European Community support, FRAME has established *INVITTOX*, a data bank to provide state-of-the-art technical information on the use of alternative methods in toxicology and toxicity testing.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY CONTROL

A *FRAME Toxicity Committee* was established in 1979 to investigate the possibility of reducing animal use and suffering in toxicity testing and the prospects of developing replacement alternatives. The Committee has published reports in 1983 and 1990. The proceedings of a conference to discuss the Committee's second report, held at the Royal College of Physicians, London, on 12-13 November 1990, have recently published as *Animals and Alternatives in Toxicology: Present Status and Future Prospects* (ed. M. Balls, J.A. Southcote & J.W. Bridges, London: Mac-

millan).

In collaboration with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and the Committee for the Reform of Animal Experiments (CRAE), FRAME acted as a principal adviser to the British Government during the preparation and passage through Parliament of the *Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986* which came into force in the UK on 1 January 1987. The Chairman of the FRAME Trustees is a member of the Animal Procedures Committee established by the Act to monitor its working and to advise the responsible ministers and civil servants.

An *All Party Parliamentary Group for FRAME* meets regularly in the House of Commons whilst Parliament is in session, with the aim of promoting the FRAME approach in government and in industry.

Early in 1987, FRAME and CRAE sent the House Office a position paper on *The Use of Non-Human Primates as Laboratory Animals in Great Britain*, together with 17 proposals for reform. The document was warmly received by the Animal Procedures Committee, and a positive response from the Home Secretary, indicating his acceptance of almost all the proposals, was published in November 1987.

FRAME is regularly consulted by special interest groups, scientists, politicians and administrators from other countries in Europe, North America and Australia.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The exploitation of animals by human beings is a very emotive issue, and there are many campaigns aimed at ending factory farming, hunting, and the use of animals for entertainment, as well as eliminating laboratory animal experimentation. Sometimes, this leads to illegal activities and to violence, which cannot be condoned.

FRAME seeks to promote a moderate, but nonetheless determined, approach to the question of the use of laboratory animals, by encouraging a realistic consideration of the

ethical and scientific issue involved and the adoption of the Three Rs strategy. This is achieved through its journal and newsletters; talks to members of the public and to students in schools and colleges; radio and television appearances; and articles in the popular press and journals.

FUNDING

Funds for research are obtained as specific donations from industrial companies, other charitable organisations, the Commission of the European Communities and the Government. Parliamentary monitoring, education, publications, administration, and FRAME's information service on alternatives, rely on the generosity of other charitable trusts and the general public. A FRAME Anniversary Appeal, with the aim of raising £1 million, was launched in 1990.

SPECIFIC CAMPAIGNS

Since its foundation, FRAME has concen-

trated on a number of specific issues, including the following:

the concept of alternatives (for which FRAME was awarded the 1986 Marching Animal Welfare Award);

the general use of animals in toxicity testing;

- ▶ the LD50 test;
- ▶ the Draize eye irritancy test;
- ▶ the testing of cosmetics and toiletries;
- ▶ the use of non-human primates in general, and of chimpanzees in AIDS research in particular;
- ▶ the use of animals in behavioural research;
- ▶ the balance to weighed between the benefits likely to result from animal experimentation and the suffering likely to be caused to the animals used;
- ▶ the re-use of laboratory animals in further experimental procedures.

The stand taken by FRAME on these issues remains pragmatic and positive. It has enhanced the reputation of the Charity as a source of objective and critical comment.

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