



Patron: Professor John Coetzee

AIMS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH INC.

- To promote all viable methods of healing which do not at any stage involve the use of animals.
- To promote the use of scientific alternatives in all forms of medical, scientific and commercial research.
- To help disseminate evidence, as it becomes available, that the use of alternatives is less costly, more accurate and more humane than the use of animals in experiments.
- To work for the abolition of all experiments using animals.

Welcome

The last couple of months have seen me spend more time out of the office than ever before, but it has been a wonderful opportunity for me to meet so many people and put across our message opposing animal experimentation.

In Sydney I presented at a workshop of university students who are in the process of setting up animal rights groups on their campuses. I was fortunate enough to speak to them about alternatives in education and demonstrated some of the excellent models that were kindly donated to AAHR by Humane Society International (Australia). It was heartening to see these young enthusiastic students so willing to embrace new concepts and commit to effecting change within the university system.

Anti-Vivisection Western Australia also invited me to speak alongside author Jeffrey Masson at their seminar (below) and this provided another great opportunity to meet many of our members across the other side of the country.

Our message is also getting through via new channels – we acknowledged World Laboratory Animals Week by having “Beyond the Cage” televised on Melbourne’s community television, C31, and in response to a letter from us, Democrats leader, Senator Lyn Allison, has put a question on notice to the Government concerning a lack of concordance between animal experiments and clinical trials. We eagerly await the response!

Finally I’d like to express our sincere thanks to all those who kindly donated to our April fundraising appeal – and especially to our monthly donors. Not only does this contribute financially to ensure the success of our important projects, it also provides us with immense encouragement - reassurance that our work is endorsed by our members and supporters. Thank you all for your support and for helping us with the huge task we have.

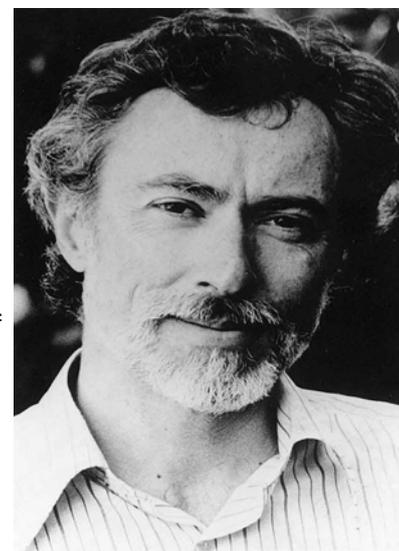


Helen Rosser

Left to right: Astrid Herhily, Susan Conway, Dr Jeffrey Masson, Mary Regts, Helen Rosser, Cathrine O’Connell and Gordon Batty (front)

A message from our Patron:

“I start from the principle that if I intend to perform some act upon another being, an unpleasant act to which the other being has not signified full, informed, and willing consent, an act which is not intended for the ultimate benefit of this being, and if I intend furthermore to perform the act in private, away from the public gaze, then the intended act is prima facie, on the face of it, an atrocity, to be resisted and denounced; furthermore, that this principle should hold whether the other being in question, my intended victim, is a man or a mouse.” - JM Coetzee



Thank You!

natures
ORGANICS

Australis

paw
PureAnimalWellbeing

Veganpet

Over the past couple of months AAHR has been creating showbags – our “Stop animal experiments” shopping bags containing cruelty-free products which we will distribute at expos. We would like to express our gratitude to the following companies for their generosity in donating their wonderful products: Natures Organics, Australis, PAW (Pure Animal Wellbeing), Veganpet and Bioforce.

Invitation:

AAHR will be proudly hosting "An evening with Jonathan Balcombe" on Monday 9th July at Soulbar.

Melbourne members should have an invitation enclosed with this newsletter so please contact us if for some reason you don't receive yours.

Sydney members don't despair! We have been advised that an event is also being hosted by Animal Liberation NSW. Please call them on (02) 9262 3221 if you are interested in attending.

Dr. Jonathan Balcombe has written many scientific papers and lay articles on animal behaviour, humane education, and animal research.



In 2000, the Humane Society Press released his book *The Use of Animals in Higher Education: Problems, Alternatives and Recommendations*. His second book, *Pleasurable Kingdom: Animals and the Nature of Feeling Good* (Macmillan), was released in May 2006.

Jonathan is currently Research Scientist with Physicians Committee for Responsible

Medicine, in Washington, D.C.

Places are limited so please contact the office as early as possible to book a place.

Reminder that memberships are due.

Those who have authorized us to renew their memberships automatically will have had their nominated amount deducted from their credit card on 1st June, except for those whose cards have passed their expiry dates.

Please contact us and provide the new details if you wish to continue with your automatic renewals. Those outstanding memberships will have a form enclosed with this newsletter.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the annual membership fee has increased to \$25. We do hope you will continue to support our important work.

Members' Forum

We received a lot of feedback following our last newsletter and, due to space restraints, are unable to publish them in their entirety. We do appreciate all feedback however and will certainly consider all the points made. Following are just a couple of points raised:

"Love to see you print at end of papers 'Pass it on' leave in waiting rooms."

Mr R Taylor, Darwin NT.

Thanks for your comments Mr Taylor. We would certainly encourage our members to pass on their newsletters after reading them.

Fundraiser

Do you, like us at AAHR, despair when well-meaning people shave their heads to raise funds for cancer research, knowing that that money is likely going toward animal experiments? Well, we're really excited to announce that one of our supporters, Natalie Tabone, is taking on a similar venture except that all funds raised will go toward AAHR projects – opposing animal experiments!



Yes, Natalie will be shaving her head on 30th June in an attempt to raise funds and awareness about animal experiments and she's seeking your support. You can contact Natalie directly on email at moshin_mushroom@hotmail.com, by phone on 0421884577, or alternatively, you can send a cheque (payable to AAHR) to 234/29 Milton Parade, Malvern, Vic 3144.

Please indicate on the cover letter or envelope that your donation is in response to Natalie's (very brave) sacrifice.

Sponsorships:

We are pleased to advise that following discussions with the new owners of Purple Vines they are happy to continue sponsoring our work through providing a percentage of sales from AAHR members.

We have also been approached by Dilga Organics and Happyandhealthyfoods.com (who sell delicious "chreese" – perfect for vegan macaroni cheese!) who have also agreed to provide a percentage of their profits. You can purchase their products via the internet.

Links to each of the companies' websites will soon be available on the merchandise page of the AAHR website or you can contact them directly on the following phone numbers: Purple Vines www.purplevines.com.au (03) 9533 7769 Dilga Organics www.dilgaorganics.com.au (03) 97525030 or 0410 747 036 Happyandhealthyfoods www.happyandhealthyfoods.com (02) 4236 0529 (Happy and Healthy Foods requires AAHR members to use a password "AAHR007" when ordering)

"Probably the safest way to go is to have a mixture of technical and simple articles and features [unless you do a survey of how membership is composed]."
Mary Regts, Bedford, WA.

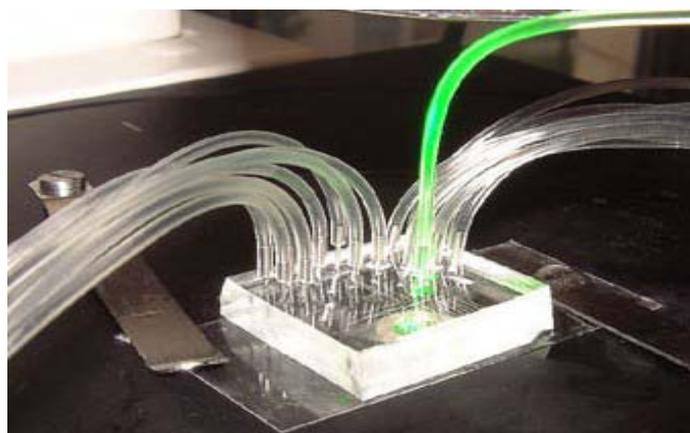
Our members do range widely between academics and school students. The intention of the "focus on" section of our newsletter is to appeal to this wider audience by providing a better understanding of some of the key issues regarding animal experimentation. If however our readers find them either too technical or contain insufficient details please let us know.

Alternatives

Proponents of animal research often argue that test tubes and petri dishes are no comparison to testing a product or theory on a complex living system, and on face value this argument may appear to have some merit. There are, however, many emerging technologies that are already providing more accurate data that is species-specific and negates the risk of damage caused by “species differences.” Emma Burgess provides some examples of these replacements.

Microdosing allows full human metabolism studies to be conducted in humans safely, and at an earlier stage. Trace doses of test drugs are administered directly into humans, whose samples are analysed by “one of the most sensitive measuring devices ever invented”: accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS). Determining the effects of test drugs in human tissues, ensures only relevant drugs are selected for further development (Europeans for Medical Progress, 2007). The specific nature of microdosing reduces attrition rates associated with animal models (Xceleron, 2005)- which fail human clinical trials over 90% of the time (Alternative to Laboratory Animals, 2006) - and can reduce pre-clinical studies by up to 90% in costs, and 6-8 months in time. The microdosing concept has recently been endorsed by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency and the US Food and Drug Authority (Xceleron, 2005), and may have prevented the TGN1412 disaster (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, 2006).

DNA chips are similar to a computer microchip. Small glass plates encased in plastic, with human DNA strategically embedded on the surface. The encoded chip is treated with test drugs to see how the individual cells are affected (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, 2001). Computer analysis is then able to evaluate the metabolic reactions which yields rapid identification of both harmful and useful substances, and allows individualised patient therapy. Some breast and ovarian cancer research in the US is presently utilising DNA chip technology (Europeans for Medical Progress, 2007).



A programmable microfluidic chip in action. (cag.csail.mit.edu/biostream/)

Microfluidic chips are similar to DNA chips, but the embedded tissues are exposed sequentially to the test drug which flows through a micro circuit in the chip (Office of Microfluidics, 2004). The process mimics that of the systems in the human body. Toxicity is predicted by revealing interactions among multiple tissue types and one or more trial drugs. Validation studies on a type of microfluidic chip called ‘H μ REL’, have produced metabolic information that was not obtainable from static cell-based experiments, animal studies or human clinical trials (Hurelcorp, 2005).

Human tissue. Studying humans and human tissue makes it possible to relate a patient’s symptoms to the disease processes. It has taught us everything we know about HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases just for example (Europeans for Medical Progress, 2007). Samples are collected from blood, placenta and umbilical cord, surgical waste (e.g. cosmetic surgery, mastectomy, circumcision), biopsies for the diagnosis of disease (e.g. from liver and kidney) and/or autopsy (Animal Aid, 2007). Supported by the National Association for Biomedical Research (Biopta, 2004), human tissue research is currently being undertaken by world leaders studying diseases such as Cancer, Diabetes, Osteoarthritis and Alzheimer’s among others (Asterand, 2007).

Computer Modeling. Highly complex mathematical models of human metabolism (including cardiovascular function, immunology [Entelos, 2007], skin sensation, inflammation and respiratory function) now provide more rapid, accurate simulations and predictive data than can be offered by animal models. Invaluable teaching aids for students and medical staff, “virtual patients” increase efficiency and productivity across the entire toxic screening and drug research & development processes and hence, being increasingly used in medical research (Harriman, 1997).

The demonstrated scientific advantage of using the above technologies is that the data provided is directly relevant to humans, unlike experiments on animals, where there is always the risk of misleading predictions. Studying changes at the molecular and cellular level in humans increases the likelihood of effective new medicines being developed to treat human diseases that currently are either poorly treated (eg: osteoarthritis) or do not have suitable treatments (eg: multiple sclerosis). The identification of drug candidates with an increased likelihood of clinical success means an overall decrease in research and development time and spending.

Together with prevention and epidemiological research, these technologies provide far more hope of advancing human health than continued reliance on data from species that differ from us genetically, physically and metabolically.

Bibliography available upon request

Campaigns

Humane Charities.

Upon receipt of some pro-bono legal advice (for which we are most grateful) our Humane Charities List page has been updated on our website. We are now in the process of approaching more medical and health charities to enquire whether or not they qualify for listing with us. We hope our list will grow substantially and we seek your assistance in this regard.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a car sticker. Please display this prominently to help us promote humane charities.

H.E.L.P.

Items from our Humane Education Loan Program are already out on loan. We presented the program to a number of university representatives that attended a workshop in NSW and we have submitted an extensive

article to the Australian Science Teachers Association for publication in their newsletter.

Update on news from Logan council.

In March, AAHR presented 141 petitions from Logan residents concerned about the provision of animals from their pound to research institutions.

We have been advised by the Mayor of Logan that they are obtaining further information and clarifying points raised in our correspondence before reassessing the matter and tabling our petition. We will of course inform our members of any news.



News from Overseas

U.S. Medical school drops live animals from its studies

Duke University School of Medicine (North Carolina, U.S.) recently confirmed that it has stopped using live pigs in its third-year surgery course. This means that only 13 medical schools (of 125 in the United States) continue to use live animals in medical student courses. PCRM (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine) physicians worked hard to explain the educational and ethical advantages of non-animal alternatives to the school, and Duke deserves praise for this wise and compassionate decision.

Source: MPMC Update 17 April 2007

AAHR says: *We will shortly be undertaking a project to determine which Australian medical schools do/do not use animals in the courses.*

Ethically-sourced stem cells

American scientists have discovered a new source of stem cells. Amniotic fluid derived stem cells have been extracted from the amniotic fluid that fills the womb during pregnancy then grown in the laboratory. This could overcome the opposition to the current method of deriving stem cells from human embryos, which causes ethical complaints when the embryos are destroyed.

Alternatives To Laboratory Animals (ATLA) 35, p.9. 2007

Prince advocates prevention as best cure

Prince Charles has publicly despaired at the growing influence of a "pill for every ill" culture at the expense of finding the true causes of ill health, such as bad diet. The Prince is a long-time advocate of alternative medicine and says that prevention is the best cure.

Source: The West Australian, 7 April 2007

Cosmetic testing ban in Europe

Cosmetic testing on rabbits and mice will soon be banned in Europe after scientists from the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods approved five new tests which will make the animal tests unnecessary. The ban is still subject to approval by all 27 member states but is expected to happen by the end of their summer.

Source: Evening Standard, UK. 28 April 2007

AAHR says: *The ban will also have a significant impact in Australia. Cosmetic and household product testing does not occur in Australia except under rare circumstances. The problem is however, that a large number of our products come from countries - places that DO test their products on animals.*

We'd like to remind members and supporters that we now provide the option for you to receive your newsletter via email rather than in hard copy. Please contact the office by emailing us at info@aahr.org.au or phoning (03) 9832 0752 if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically.

Merchandise

Price list:

Stop t-shirts (stretchy or loose fitting)	\$25
Better Way t-shirts (green or black)	\$20
Mugs	\$15
Donation certificates (new)	\$25, \$50, \$100
Stop stickers	\$0.50
Better way car stickers	\$1
Pens	\$2.50
Shopping bags (new)	\$4
Notepads (new)	\$3
Remember – all prices are inclusive of postage.	

