



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

Hello everybody.

This quarter we have some really good news! We are proud to announce that production of our DVD entitled "Beyond The Cage" has been completed and it's now available for sale.

The program features interviews with Dr Andre Menache, Dr Andrew Knight, Colleen McDuling and Elizabeth Jackson – all of whom provide compelling arguments against the use of animals in research – and is introduced by television presenter Suzie Wilks. We'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks to each of these people who freely donated their time and wisdom to promote an issue that they were clearly very passionate about. Thank you especially, to all our members and supporters who responded to our recent appeal letter to fund this special project.

The ad on the right has been published in the October issue of "Education Today" magazine which features an editorial on planning curricula for the next school year. Our timing for completing this project was therefore crucial. It was followed up with a faxed order form sent to every secondary school in Australia and the purchase orders are now flowing in!

While the program is aimed primarily at students it's also very suitable for members and anyone wanting to have a clear understanding of the basic ethical and scientific reasons for the need to move away from animal usage in testing.

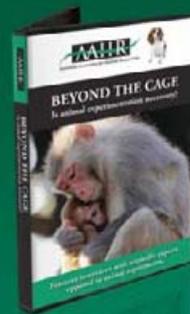
If you would like to purchase a copy, for the low price of \$10 (to cover copying and postage only) please send in your cheque or money order to this office. Alternatively you can donate the \$10 via our website and drop us an email to let us know your details.

If you have recently donated toward this project and would like a DVD, please let us know and we'll post a free copy to you.

Next year we have lots more plans for campaigns as always but we would like to hear more from our members. Please see the article on page 3. We think it's important to listen to people's suggestions and feedback on their experiences and share these with all our members and supporters.

## BEYOND THE CAGE

Is animal experimentation necessary?



Introduced by  
Suzie Wilks



*Suitable for secondary level students of  
English, Philosophy and Life Sciences.*

Introduced by Suzie Wilks, this 15 minute DVD introduces the ethical and scientific arguments against the use of animals in research and forms an ideal basis for discussion on this highly controversial issue.

To order a copy, please contact the Australian Association for Humane Research by phoning (03) 9832 0752 or email [info@aahr.org.au](mailto:info@aahr.org.au) or visit our website [www.aahr.org.au](http://www.aahr.org.au).

Cost: \$10 which is inclusive of GST, postage and handling.

Also check out our new merchandise on the back page – ready just in time for Christmas! Our new "Stop" t-shirts are a little more eye-catching than our original designs and have proven to be a hit at the recent expos we've attended. So if you're interested in buying our new design please order quickly as they are selling fast. Additionally the prices of our older merchandise have been reduced so now is also a good time to order your mugs and t-shirts and show the world you oppose animal experiments.

On behalf of the office staff and the Management Committee of AAHR, I wish you all a wonderful and safe festive season.

*Helen Rasser*

# ANZCCART conference 2006



Nick Jukes (Interniche), Diana Palmer (AVU, SA) and Helen Rosser (AAHR)

In September, Diana Palmer of Anti-Vivisection Union South Australia, and AAHR's CEO Helen Rosser, attended the ANZCCART conference in Canberra.

ANZCCART is the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching - an independent body, based at the University of Adelaide, that promotes the welfare and humane treatment of animals used in science and teaching.

A number of groups protested outside the conference venue, however Diana and Helen chose to attend as delegates. AAHR felt this was a good opportunity to learn more about the issues, about how researchers justify their work (in order to counter them) and to meet face to face so that it could convince them that its opinions were valid and not mere emotional or fanatical ploys.

There was a wide variety of speakers ranging from researchers who tried to justify their work by explaining how the use of real animals in teaching excited and enthused students, to veterinarian Dr Andrew Knight (Animal Consultants International) and Nick Jukes (Interniche) who argued convincingly that the use of alternatives is of equal, if not better, educational value.

Helen believes that much was gained by attending. Positive discussions were held with several academics with whom she had previously corresponded.

## Australian News

### Animal treatments not suitable for children

The Australian Veterinary Association has issued warnings against parents using animal flea treatments in an attempt to rid their children of head lice.

AVA past president Dr Matt Atkin has said "Animal treatments such as flea treatments are not designed or tested for use on humans and as such are potentially dangerous."

Source: *The West Australian*, 7 October 2006

### Human therapeutic cloning

The Australian Senate has given in-principle support to overturn a ban on therapeutic human cloning. The Bill, proposed by Victorian Senator Kay Patterson, will allow the cloning of human embryos to extract stem cells.

Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett moved an

Helen also received encouraging feedback from individuals who had received AAHR information about alternatives to fetal calf serum.

AAHR looks forward to attending the conference again next year to ascertain whether the issues discussed will have advanced further.

AAHR does try to keep informed by attending conferences and seminars on a regular basis. In the last couple of months the President of AAHR Steph Geddes and Helen attended two lectures at the Victorian College of Pharmacology, a Monash University presentation about stem cell research, a lecture by Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall and most recently a talk by Professor Colin Blakemore - renowned pro-animal research advocate from Oxford University, UK.

Unfortunately (but not surprisingly) AAHR has not received any response to its request for a meeting with Prof. Blakemore about his work using animals.



Dr Andrew Knight,  
Animal Consultants  
International  
Photo: Noah Hannibal



Protests in Canberra during the conference.  
Photo: Noah Hannibal

amendment in the Senate to prevent animal eggs being used in cloning. This will prevent human DNA being implanted in animal eggs which have had their nucleus removed.

The cloned embryos will have to be destroyed after 14 days and cannot be implanted into either humans or animals.

Source: *Herald Sun*, 8 November 2006

### Catholic Church bans stem cell cures

The Catholic Church has voiced its opposition to the use of all treatments developed using embryonic cells. The potentially life-saving treatments will be banned in Catholic hospitals on ethical grounds as the Church considers it immoral and akin to killing in order to obtain cells.

Source: *The West Australian*, 21 October 2006

# REACH

**Those members and supporters that follow animal research issues overseas may be familiar with the controversy over the REACH system, but what exactly is it and what are the implications for animal experimentation?**

REACH is the acronym for "Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals" – a policy proposed by the European Commission in 2001 which attempts to increase the safety of chemicals for both humans and the environment.

This new European Union law requires compulsory toxicity testing of about 30,000 chemicals that have already been on the market since before 1981, when there were no stringent requirements for health and safety. In particular, the Commission will be evaluating the effects on pregnancy and subsequent generations.

The chemical industry must first provide data on the hazardous properties of chemicals. It has been agreed by the European Commission that any further testing required must first rely on non-animal tests, for both financial and animal welfare reasons, where they exist. However, it has been estimated that the number of animals to be used could range from between 16 million (predicted by the chemicals industry) to 45 million (calculated by Germany's Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) over a period of 15 years.

The tests include chemicals dripped into eyes, application of skin irritants, inhalation of toxic substances, force feeding of chemicals, growth of cancerous tumours and reproductive toxicology tests. Testing will be conducted mainly on rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, dogs and fish.

#### References:

BUAV Campaign Report, Summer 2005  
Alternatives to Laboratory Animals, Volume 34, Number 4, August 2006  
The Sunday Times (UK) 8 October 2006

## News from Overseas

### Labelling - tested on animals

In an attempt to promote animal-based research, the UK government wants to label medicines as having been tested on animals. The proposed message on the labels is "This medicine has only been made available through insights gained in its development and safety testing through the humane use of animals."

Source: *ATLA (Alternatives to Laboratory Animals) 34, Number 3, 2006 p.274*

### Cell cultured vaccines

Novartis is set to become the first company to commercially produce and market cell culture-derived flu vaccines for European markets. (Current methods involve injection of the virus into fertilized chicken eggs).

It's hoped that if the project is successful it will encourage greater investment in alternative methods by both government funding bodies and by industry.

Source: *ATLA 34, Number 4, 2006, p.368*

The use of animals in these tests has been criticized for a number of reasons, including:

- The predictive value of animal tests is poor
- Epidemiological data on pregnant humans have indicated that the human embryo is more resistant to toxic chemicals than are laboratory animals.

BUAV (British Union Against Vivisection) has fought the REACH proposal for the past five years – acknowledging the importance of ensuring safety standards but maintaining that using animals to do this is the wrong way to go – both ethically and scientifically. They produced the report "*The Way Forward: a non-animal strategy for toxicity testing*" in 2001 as part of their "Harmful If Swallowed" campaign. It can be downloaded from their resource centre at [www.buav.org](http://www.buav.org). The document has been used as their basis for a complete non-animal testing strategy by providing technical support for the tabling of amendments to the proposal which would eliminate *all* animal testing.

"Even basic toxicology tests on animals aren't serving us well. The Multicenter Evaluation of In-Vitro Cytotoxicity program found that rat and mouse tests were only about 65 percent accurate in predicting lethal blood concentrations of chemicals in humans. But a combination of human-cell tests and computer modelling predicted chemical toxicity with 80 percent precision."

"*Good Medicine*", *PCRM, Winter 2005/ Vol. XIV, No.1.*

### We Want Your Feedback !

We would like to hear more from members and supporters about their experiences and opinions about animal research and share these thoughts with all of you. Do you have any questions about us or animal research in general? Write to us at our office address detailed on the front page of this newsletter or email us at [info@aaahr.org.au](mailto:info@aaahr.org.au).

So we can publish a few in our next newsletter, try to keep it to under 100 words. We look forward to hearing from you shortly!

### Serum-free cell culture

The new [www.sefrec.com](http://www.sefrec.com) database gives an overview of 500 cell culture media and 32 cell lines that are currently available for serum-free culture systems. The database, established with the support of the 3R's Research Foundation, is interactive and access is free-of-charge.

Reproduced from: *ATLA 34, Number 4, 2006, p.368*

### Mouse study confirms depression linked to acne drug

A US study has proven a long-suspected link between a popular acne drug and depression. The drug, sold as Roaccutane, Oratane or Accure was given to 12 mice who exhibited more depressive behaviour.

According to Australasian College of Dermatologists spokesman, Dr Chris Quirk however, "results seen in mice are not necessarily relevant to humans... For example, we know that not all patients get depressed when taking this drug and many greatly benefit from having their acne effectively treated."

Source: *The West Australian, 21 September 2006 and Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin, Volume 24, Number 3, June 2005*

## Merchandise

As modeled by television presenter Suzie Wilks, our new "Stop" t-shirts have been selling like hot cakes, and for \$25 they are available in both stretchy and loose fitting styles and a wide variety of sizes. Our "Stop" stickers are also new and for just 50 cents each are an inexpensive way to spread the word.

Our previous merchandise is still available although only limited sizes of the t-shirts remain in stock.

All prices listed include postage and handling and if we receive your order before 14 December we guarantee delivery in time for Christmas.

### T-shirts:

STOP \$25

Available in stretch spandex sizes 8-16

Loose fitting sizes Small - 2Xlarge

Older style t-shirts

Better Way.. available in black or dark green sizes small, medium and large \$20



### Stickers:

Better Way \$2

STOP (not vinyl-coated) 50 cents

Mugs \$10

Pens \$2

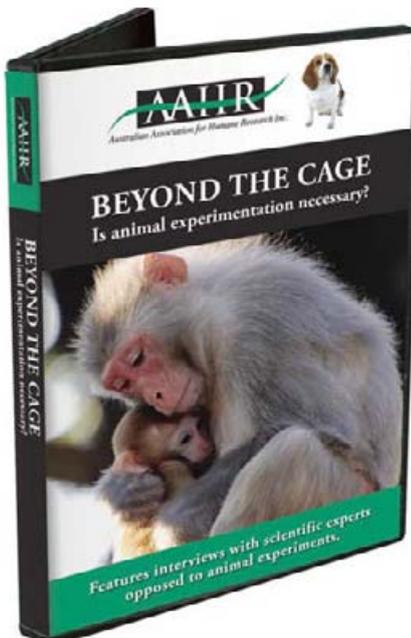
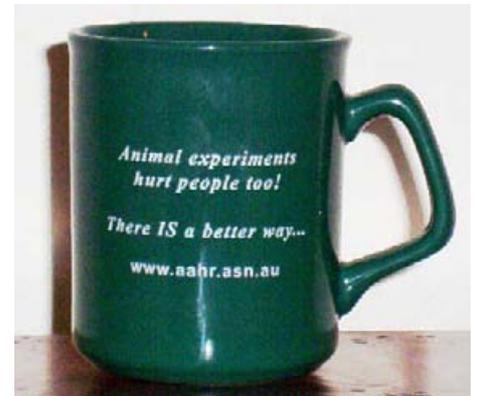


Animal experiments hurt people too!

There IS a better way...



[www.aahr.asn.au](http://www.aahr.asn.au)



At \$10, our 15-minute DVD "Beyond the Cage" is a great introduction for those who may want to learn more about animal research.

MRMC has published a 2006 edition of its hard-hitting, fully-documented booklet "A critical look at animal experimentation" showing the shortcomings of animal experimentation. We now have this available for \$2 per copy.

**Note: All prices include postage and handling.**

