



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **UK SCIENTISTS URGE AUSTRALIA TO ABANDON ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS**

UK Scientists, Dr André Menache and Ms Colleen McDuling are currently in Australia to address the dangers of using animals to research human health, and to promote the use of non-animal methods. They have been meeting with key individuals within the scientific community and have presented several seminars. The visit coincides with “World Week for Animals in Laboratories” (April 23-30).

Of concern to Dr Menache and Ms McDuling is that Australia uses more animals per capita than the UK, with the most recent Australian figures reaching almost 6.5 million animals. The number of animals used in the UK is around 3.0 million.

**Says Dr Menache:** *“It is worrying that around 6,000 Australians die every year from adverse drug reactions – prescription drugs that have been thoroughly tested on animals. This is a wake-up call to the health authorities to re-examine the current drug testing system.”*

**Ms McDuling is quoted** as saying: *“Most animals used in research are rodents. These animals display a wide variety of biological differences between themselves. The biological differences between them and humans is even more stark. We should thus aim to make our research species-specific and make greater use of human tissues. The use of animals represents bad and unsafe science.”*

**Dr André Menache** has previously held the position of president for Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (UK), and is currently a Scientific Consultant. He has published several papers opposing animal research.

**Ms Colleen McDuling** holds a Masters degree in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry and has also specialised in the biology and behaviour of small mammals – particularly rodents.

There are few qualified people willing to speak out against animal experiments and this open discussion and sharing of information will be crucial if we are to attain a greater understanding of the dangers of extrapolating animal data to human conditions.

The visit to Australia is being hosted by the Australian Association for Humane Research Inc. – a non-profit organization that opposes animal-based research on both ethical and scientific grounds.

For further information about the Australian Association for Humane Research Inc. or to contact Dr Menache and Ms McDuling for further comment, please call:

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