

The NC3Rs is the UK's national organisation which leads the discovery and application of new technologies and approaches to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals for scientific purposes. In the 11 years of its existence, the NC3Rs has grown hugely in the scope of its activities, which now involve all aspects of the life science sector, both public and private. During this time, the NC3Rs has committed around £50m for 3Rs research, and has a current budget of £10m per annum. We receive core funding from UK government bodies, but also, for specific programmes, from the charitable and commercial sectors.

It funds 3Rs research, training and career development, supports open innovation and commercialisation of 3Rs technologies, and stimulates changes in policy, regulations and practice relating to the use of animals. The NC3Rs has been influential in increasing the enthusiasm of the research community in the UK for the application of the 3Rs to their work and for the development of alternatives to animal experiments.

This talk will provide an update on the current activities of the Centre, concentrating on CRACK IT (which facilitates collaboration between large industry, SMEs and academia), the recently launched Experimental Design Assistant (EDA), and the NC3Rs' new focus on the application of 3Rs at the institutional level.

Much of the success of the NC3Rs can be explained by its strictly rational approach to the use of animals, its intense focus on the evidence base supporting their use and the extent to which application of the 3Rs can produce better science. In many of its activities, the NC3Rs acts as a neutral intermediary for gathering data and experiences from the research and regulatory communities in order to build the evidence base for science-based recommendations on policy and practice. Successes from this approach will also be discussed.