

Execution of Novo Nordisk Animal Ethics Ambition - The establishment of a 3R department.

Stine Øvlisen, Director, 3RMmanagement & Strategy, Novo Nordisk A/S

Novo Nordisk has, as an inevitable part of producing safe and efficacious treatments for patients, research involving the use of animals.

We as a company cannot - as it is today - avoid the use of animals. We can however take on the responsibility to do our outmost to reduce, refine and replace (the 3R Principles) animal research whenever possible.

Novo Nordisk has integrated these principles into processes and procedures to ensure an ongoing active support of the 3Rs throughout the company. A culture of care is embedded in the people working with the animals and goes hand in hand with a culture of challenge - we are constantly asking our self - how can we do better? A virtual set-up anchored at top executive level has been established many years ago to govern this.

Being a global company in growth with a commitment to the 3Rs and a wish to continuously do more is not a simple task. As a consequence Novo Nordisk decided to establish a centralised department driving 3R innovation - taking a more strategic approach to the 3Rs.

The department will contribute to an even deeper integration of 3R considerations in the decision making processes and assist animal caretakers and researchers to bring new 3R ideas and initiatives to fruition. Specific focus will be given to identification of new replacement initiatives. Furthermore, the department will engage in dialogues with our key stakeholders and enter into collaborations and partnerships.