

The response reproduced below was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on the ethics of research involving animals during October-December 2003. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

Derek Paton, UK

Dear Sir,

I am responding to the invitation to contribute my views on the above topic, which are as follows:

“Animal experimentation is not necessary. It is expensive. It is inaccurate. It is misleading. It consumes limited resources. And, further, it is detrimental to the very species it professes to be working to help—humankind.”

This quotation is taken from Chapter 12 of “Sacred Cows and Golden Geese: The Human Cost of Experiments on Animals,” written by Drs Ray and Jean Greek, as the result of extensive research into the true origins of the medical advances we enjoy today.

They concluded that animal experiments were not necessary and have played no part in human medical progress. In fact, they have been shown to be a serious impediment.

In the absence of any shred of a scientific basis with which to legitimise the continuation of experiments on animals, the intelligent course of action is to call a halt to this travesty.

Once this occurs, the question over the ethics of the matter ceases to be.

I am sure you will not have guessed at the outset that the solution to this ethical dilemma would be so simple!

My contribution to this consultation is to make members of the working party aware of the research carried out by Drs Ray and Jean Greek and direct them to www.curedisease.com and Europeans For Medical Advancement (EFMA), the organisation they established to inform the public of the evidence which exposes the futility of using the animal model to determine human response.

Data gleaned from experiments on animals simply cannot be extrapolated to the human, owing to a plethora of complex species differences.

There is no doubt in my mind that EFMA will prove to be the catalyst which will galvanise public opinion and focus attention on the fraud and deception perpetrated by animal experimenters, who are adamant and vociferous in their claim that their activities are important and relevant to human medical research.

They would be well advised to realise at the earliest opportunity that maintaining such claims in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary will expose them to public ridicule in future and that they should acknowledge the wheels of their gravy train are approaching the point of detachment.

The sooner the enormous sums of money that fund irrelevant experimentation on animals is diverted to relevant human-based, non-invasive methodologies, the sooner the pace of human medical progress will quicken.