

April 2022

## Launch of All-Party Parliamentary Group for Human Relevant Science report: “Bringing Back the Human”



Grahame Morris MP, Amanda Ellison, Pepik Henneman, Sue Gibbs, Gerry Kenna, Carla Owen, Pandora Pound, Ibidapo Williams, Lorna Harries, Kathy Archibald, David Thomas, Kerry Postlewhite, Cathy Monaghan, Jan Turner

22 March 2022: Alongside several Alliance partners and colleagues, plus some of the experts who contributed to the inquiry, we were delighted to attend the launch in Parliament of the APPG’s first report: *Bringing Back the Human: Transitioning from Animal Research to Human Relevant Science in the UK*.

Based on a year-long inquiry and meetings with expert scientists and regulators, the report stresses that now is the time for government leadership and coordination to put the human first and modernise medical research.

Grahame Morris MP, Chair of the APPG for Human-Relevant Science, said:

*“I welcome the report’s findings, which show that human-relevant research has the potential to enhance the productivity of industry, improve public health, and cement the UK’s status as a global science superpower.”*

Please see [www.HumanRelevantScience.org](http://www.HumanRelevantScience.org) or [www.SaferMedicines.org](http://www.SaferMedicines.org) for more information, the report and a one-sheet summary.

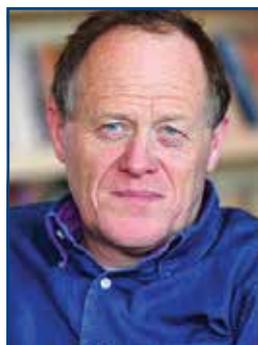
## Our Patrons



Mat Fraser



Caroline Lucas MP



Dr James Le Fanu



Carol Royle



Grahame Morris MP

# CIAO Covid!

Our Scientific Consultant, Rebecca Ram contributed her data-analysis skills to the international CIAO Covid collaboration, a project for modelling the pathogenesis of Covid-19 using the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) framework. AOPs map the networks of connections between the cascades of molecular events that occur when a virus (or chemical) encounters the body, at cell, organ and ultimately, organism level. Led by the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration, much progress has been made, and some of it was



presented at the US Society of Toxicology 2022 Congress in San Diego in March. See our website for more details, especially Rebecca's blog post.

## A fascinating account of the scientific appraisal of animal research over the past 20 years

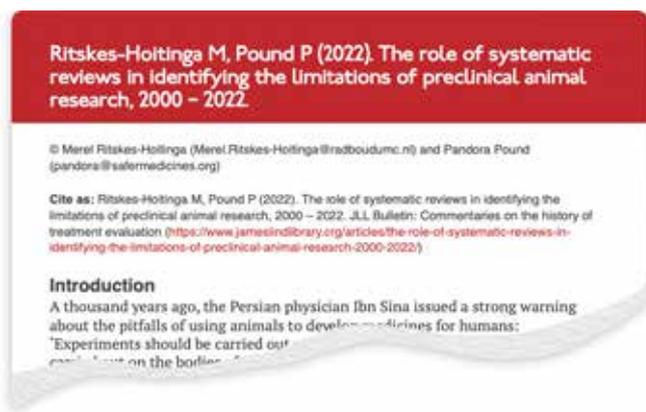
"The role of systematic reviews in identifying the limitations of preclinical animal research, 2000 – 2022", by Professor Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga and Dr Pandora Pound (Safer Medicines Trust) is published by the James Lind Library and the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Despite resisting scientific scrutiny for decades, animal studies have, over the last twenty years, been revealed by systematic reviews to be often poorly conducted and unreliable, with the result that humans have, on occasion, been seriously harmed. Such troubling exposures have prompted several initiatives to improve the quality of animal studies and their reporting, but these have had little impact so far on improving their translation to humans. Could it be that fundamental differences between species constitute an insurmountable problem for

biomedical research? Given that transformative human-relevant technologies such as organ-chips and organoids, alongside advanced computational models and non-invasive imaging studies (such as microdosing), are now available,

could now be the time for a new paradigm?

Highly recommended reading (via our website), along with the Special Issue of the journal *Animals* (December 2020): "Are Animal Models Needed to Discover, Develop and Test Pharmaceutical Drugs for Humans in the 21st Century?", guest edited by Dr Pound.



# Documentary film



The *Medical Illusion* is a 55-minute documentary by Canadian film maker Gary Charbonneau, available free online at [TheMedicalIllusion.com](http://TheMedicalIllusion.com). It features some Canadian patients and politicians but also many scientists from Canada and all over the world, so it is relevant universally. Its focus is on the failure of translation from animals to humans and how that is holding back medicine. It contains a wealth of interviews and eye-opening revelations. We were delighted to introduce Gary to some of the subjects and can highly recommend this thought-provoking film, which will launch in Canada on 24th April. **NB:** There is no footage of animal experimentation.

One of the best ways to reach people with our message is through our leaflet. Please order copies for your friends and family, and if you can afford to, please help us with a donation, which will be hugely appreciated, no matter how small. We are in great need of funds to continue our work to transform medical research from a largely animal-based to a human-based science.

**Medical research is broken**

- Side effects kill more than 10,000 people in the UK each year, 100,000 in the US and 200,000 in the EU (BMJ 329:1, 2004; Institute for Safe Medication Practices, QuarterWatch September 2015; European Commission MEDD/04/07/02)
- Clearly, safety testing is failing – but why?
- Medicines are tested on animals before humans – but 9 out of 10 that appear safe and effective in animals prove unsafe or ineffective in human trials (Bioethics/Prevention Organizations 2016; "Clinical Development Success Rates 2006-2015")
- New human-relevant tests can predict subtle or rare side effects that even human clinical trials cannot (Nature Scientific Reports 11, 4403, 2021) – but there is no legal requirement to use them!

Help us replace unreliable animal tests with human relevant science

**SAFER MEDICINES** Human relevant science saves lives

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# Presentations to diverse audiences

In March 2022, our Pharmaceutical Director, Dr Gerry Kenna, gave a virtual seminar on “[In vitro models for assessment of drug-induced liver injury \(DILI\)](#)” to the Liver Toxicity Working Group of the US regulator, the FDA. The talk gives a valuable insight, from an expert with decades of experience, into the state of the art of drug safety testing to avoid the risk of DILI, which can be serious and even fatal, and is a leading reason for failed development and use of many otherwise promising new drugs. The talk is technical, but in the summary in the final 7 minutes, Gerry explains that numerous methods using human-derived cells provide data that are much more useful than animal safety studies. It is past time for strong regulatory guidance that requires the use of in vitro methods to assess the risk of DILI, thus reducing the incidence of this serious but often avoidable adverse drug reaction.

Our Director, Dr Jan Turner was invited once again to give a virtual presentation to another Westminster Health Forum meeting on “[The future of medicines regulation in the UK](#)”. Her talk described why innovation to ensure safe and effective medicines is imperative for the UK. She emphasised that we are calling for a regulatory system fit for the 21st century, which uses human-relevant science to deliver safer and more effective medicines more quickly and at less cost.

Jan also gave a webinar at a symposium of the Evidence-Based Toxicology Collaboration on overcoming data availability obstacles, highlighting the crucial need for ALL data, both negative and positive, clinical and preclinical, to be published. Without full transparency of data, to reduce bias, improper influence and misrepresentation, there can be no public trust in decisions taken regarding approval of medicines or other public health interventions. As the authors of “The Illusion of Evidence-Based Medicine” write in BMJ, 16 March 2022: “Until this problem is corrected, evidence based medicine will remain an illusion.”

Our Scientific Consultant, Rebecca Ram, and our Research Consultant, Pandora Pound, both gave talks at the 11th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in August and September 2021, on “[New Approach Methodologies Funding and Regulation](#)”, and “[Breaking the lock-in to animal research within academia](#)”, respectively.

Rebecca also gave an invited presentation on advancing human relevant research via New Approach Methodologies in November 2021, and Pandora gave a lecture for the course: Animals in Research: Law, Policy, and Humane Sciences, at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.

*All presentations are available on our website.*

# Make a will for free with Farewill

Now more than ever Safer Medicines Trust is relying on gifts in Wills from supporters like you to help our work live on. A legacy is a great way to keep your memory alive and continue to help the causes you care about. We have a partnership with Farewill (the largest will-writer in the UK and winner of many awards, including National Will Writing Firm of the Year 2019, 2020 & 2021), to offer a FREE will-writing service to our supporters. There is no obligation to leave any money to us and we will not know what you decide (unless you tell us) but we will be extremely grateful if you do.

Farewill can help you online or by phone. Their friendly experts make writing a will quick and easy. You can do it via <https://farewill.com/safer-medicines-trust> or call 020 8050 2686 to make an

appointment - 9am-6pm, 6 days a week. You must notify the Customer Service team at the start of the call that you are a Safer Medicines Trust supporter. Farewill's experts will make sure your wishes are clear and that your loved ones are provided for exactly as you wish. They offer an Unlimited Changes service for complete peace of mind.

We are so grateful to the wonderful people who have already left legacies to Safer Medicines Trust – it is no exaggeration to say that we simply would not exist without them. We remember them constantly and strive to fulfil their wishes, which drive all of our work.



We are extremely grateful to all our supporters for helping to spread the word and for your generous donations: we couldn't do what we do without you! Thanks to your kind response to our appeals, we are still here – but our funding has been decimated and unless things pick up for us soon, we may not survive beyond 2022.

**Please help us to continue this vital work.**

## ACTION

### Leaflets

Please order as many as you can distribute. **FREE** but donations greatly appreciated.



### Newsletters

Please order further **FREE** copies to distribute if you can.

### DVDs

Watch Safer Medicines (2007) on our website or order **FREE** copies.



### Petition

Sign our petition calling for the use of more reliable safety tests. You can sign on our website OR on paper: print sheets or order by email, phone or post.



### Donate

You can donate on our website or by post or phone – please see below.

We rely completely on your generosity. We receive no corporate or government funding and have no expensive overheads: all of our office space is donated without charge.

If you want to see real progress towards a future where medical research is based on studying humans rather than animals, please support our work today.

**Please copy this section or cut it off and return to us – thank you**

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\_\_\_\_\_ DVDs \_\_\_\_\_ Petitions

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Please make cheques payable to 'Safer Medicines Trust' and send to: **Safer Medicines, PO Box 122, Kingsbridge TQ7 9AX**

With no corporate or government funding, we rely completely on your generosity. Thank you – we simply can't do this without you.

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