

Research involving animals – the Genetic Interest Group’s position.



The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) is a UK-wide alliance of organisations with a membership of over 130 charities which support children, families and individuals affected by genetic

- Patients are the direct beneficiaries of medical research; their voice and opinions should be equally important as other stakeholders.
- The use of animals in medical research is a vital, legally required, stage in the development of treatments for patients with unmet medical needs.
- The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) believes that properly regulated animal research is essential to much needed medical innovation. Without animal research, the development of new therapies would at best be significantly impeded, and worst completely prevented.
- We abhor violence and intimidation by so-called “animal-rights” terrorists that hinder legitimate investigations that will ultimately result in a reduction of human suffering.

Therefore:

- GIG supports animal based research for medicinal purposes undertaken in properly regulated research centres where there is no realistic alternative. Central to this is a legal framework that is appropriate and proportionate, allowing essential research whilst protecting the welfare of animals used.

GIG calls for:

- A proportionate, appropriate and transparent regulatory framework designed with proper consideration of the **reasons** why the research is needed. This regulatory framework should prevent abuse, not compromise safety of products that may emerge, and not retard progress towards novel therapies.
- Investment into the 3Rs: Refinement, Reduction & Replacement. This work is vital for the continued public endorsement for necessary use of animals in biomedical research.