

Best practice in non-animal research methods Joint science conference 2025 agenda

Day 1

Innovations in non-animal research methods

26 March 2025

08:15 – Registration/refreshments

Day 1 opening plenary session

09:00 – Welcome address

- **Professor Geoff Pilkington, Chair at Animal Free Research UK Chair**

09:10 – Keynote presentation: Background, barriers and bottlenecks for non-animal methods of medical research

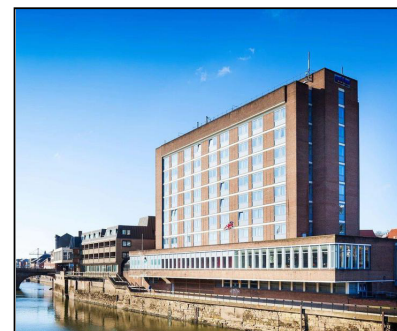
- **Professor Malcolm Wilkinson, formerly CEO at Kirkstall, Trustee of Animal Free Research UK**

09:40 – Keynote plenary Q&A

10:00 – The current NAMscape: An overview of human-focused approaches

- **Dr Ross Dobie, Head of Science at the Centre for Human Specific Research**

10:15 – Morning tea and coffee break [exhibition/posters/networking]



Venue: Radisson Hotel York

Session A: Innovations in oncology

10:50 – An in vitro model of breast cancer niche priming

- **Dr Hannah Harrison, University of Manchester**

Induced pluripotent stem cell derived sensory neurons to investigate mechanisms of pain in pancreatic cancer

- **Dr Ed Carter, University of Bath**

Engineering advanced synthetic biomaterial-based models of pancreatic cancer with controllable biological, biomechanical and biochemical properties

- **Professor Eirini Velliou, University College London**

The evolution of animal-free in vitro models for preclinical studies in neuro-oncology

- **Dr Anke Bruning-Richardson, University of Huddersfield**

PERP-balancing decisions for cell survival or death in cancer: insights from in vitro cell-based studies of uveal melanoma

- **Professor Luminita Paraoan, Edge Hill University**

A cell line model of early ovarian cancer

- **Dr Barbara Guinn, Hull York Medical School, University of Hull**

12:20 – Innovations in oncology - speaker Q&A panel

12:45 – Lunch break [exhibition/posters/networking]

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Session B: Advancing human-focused approaches and disease modelling

- 13:35 –** Development of 3D bioprinted blood vessels to replace animal models in microsurgical training
- **Dr Deepak Kalaskar and Sushma Priya, University College London**
- Bioengineered human arteries for modelling cardiovascular disease
- **Dr Adam Fellows, Royal Veterinary College**
- A novel technology to manufacture human tissues and potential applications in disease modelling and drug discoveries
- **Dr Livia Rocha dos Santos, Nottingham Trent University**
- Neural mechanisms underlying impaired impulse control in parkinson's disease
- **Dr Hayley MacDonald, University of Bergen, University of Birmingham**
- Physical models of blood brain barriers and their integrity being subjected to head impacts in football
- **Dr Yang Liu, Loughborough University**
- 14:50 –** Advancing human-focused approaches and disease modelling - speaker Q&A panel
- 15:15 –** Afternoon tea and coffee break [exhibition/posters/networking]
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Session C: Cutting-edge in silico approaches

- 15:35 –** Leveraging existing data to build improved in silico models for kinetics
- **Professor Judith Madden, Liverpool John Moores University**
- Towards a platform of xenogeneic-free models of the human colonic epithelium - bioinformatical and computational aspects of integrated systems
- **Dr Mark Williams, University of East Anglia**
- 16:05 –** Cutting-edge in silico approaches - speaker Q&A panel
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Day 1 closing plenary session

- 16:30 –** Keynote presentation: Improved clinical trial outcomes and animal replacement; using repurposed drugs and 3D human models
- **Professor Geoff Pilkington, Animal Free Research UK Chair**
- 17:00 –** Closing remarks
- 18:30 –** Merchants Hall - Drinks reception
- 19:30 –** Merchants Hall - Dinner featuring awards presentations
- 22:30 –** End of Day 1

Merchants Hall



27 March 2025

- 08:30 – Registration/refreshments
- 09:00 – Welcome to Day 2
- **Dr Alison Giles, CEO of The Humane Research Trust**
- 09:10 – Animal Free Research UK Outstanding Scientist awardee talk
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Session D: The next generation: Early career researchers driving progress

- 09:30 – Controlled nitric oxide release in HUVECs via nanostimulation of 3D-printed piezoelectric chitosan hydrogels
- **Dr Roger Domingo-Roca, University of Strathclyde**
- Developing animal-free in vitro 3D models for drug toxicity testing
- **Dr Yu Xin, University of Manchester**
- 10:10 – Short break
- In vitro osteocytes inhibit nociceptors activity: An effect lost after mechanical piezo1 activation
- **Dr Ryan Jones, Cardiff University**
- Engineering 3D non-animal models of dysfunctional adipose tissue
- **Dr Nicola Contessi Negrini, Imperial College London**
- 10:20 – Animal Free Research UK Early Career Scientist awardee talk
- 10:35 – ECR Q&A panel
- 10:55 – Morning tea & coffee break [exhibition/posters/ECR networking]
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Session E: Finding the right solution: The latest advances in animal-free biomaterials

- 11:15 – Implementing a plan to eliminate animal-derived reagents in scientific research
- **Dr Ouarda Saib, Unilever**
- Introducing the basement membrane extract (BME)-free database
- **Dr Melissa van Velthoven, 3Rs Centre Utrecht, Utrecht University, The Netherlands**
- Hydrogel encapsulation for the preservation and transportation of in vitro models
- **Dr Steve Swioklo, Atelerix**
- A new animal-component-free defined universal cell culture medium
- **Tilo Weber, Animal Welfare Academy of the German Animal Welfare Federation**
- Towards a human Matrigel replacement: The road of a waste product
- **Dr Beat Thalmann, Scinora gmbH**

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Day 2 continued

- 12:40 – Lunch break [exhibition/posters/networking]
- 13:20 – Sponsor talk - Bio-Rad: Generation of custom HuCAL® recombinant monoclonal antibodies using in vitro selection technology
- **Paul Royle, Technical Sales Manager Custom Antibodies, Bio-Rad Laboratories UK**
- The unnoticed death of 1 million animals - Start the transition to animal-free antibodies for your research
- **Dr Esther Wenzel, Abcalis**
- Redefining the future of antibody use in science: The recombinant antibodies & mimetics database
- **Dr Stephanie Modi, Science Manager at the Centre for Human Specific Research**
- 14:05 – Q&A panel
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Session F: Creating a catalyst for change: An environment for action

- 14:30 – Herbie's Law: A practical framework to drive the transition to human-specific science
- **Isobel Martin, Director of Public Affairs at Animal Free Research UK**
- The German Animal Welfare Federation's 'Road map to Animal-free science' - a comprehensive guide to scientific and ethical progress
- **Kristina Wagner, Animal Welfare Academy of the German Animal Welfare Federation**
- Why we need an Alliance for Human-Relevant Science: The power and potential of collaboration
- **Celean Camp, CEO of Replacing Animal Research and Rebecca Ram, Safer Medicines Trust**
- 15:15 – Afternoon tea and coffee break [exhibition/posters/networking]
- Animal methods bias in publishing and funding: Introducing the COLAAB.
- **Dr Owen Kavanagh, York St John University**
- Introducing the Centre for Human Specific Research
- **Dave Cameron and Dr Ross Dobie, Centre for Human Specific Research**
- 16:05 – Q&A panel
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Day 2 closing plenary session

- 16:30 – Keynote presentation: Exploring the future of alternative methods and NAMs: Key innovations, regulatory approaches and trends to watch
- **Dr Dharaminder Singh, CN-Bio**
- 17:00 – Closing keynote plenary Q&A
- 17:20 – Closing remarks
- 17:30 – **Conference ends**

Agenda may be subject to change.



Radisson Hotel York