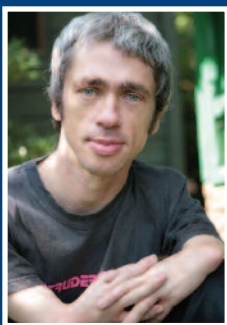


Safer Medicines Trust Safer Medicines Campaign

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It's time to test animal tests...



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“Animal testing makes all of us guinea pigs. Thalidomide was advertised as ‘harmless as a sugar cube’ after huge doses produced no ill effects in animal tests. Ironically, thalidomide would probably still be approved by animal tests today.”

**Mat Fraser, actor and thalidomider,
Safer Medicines Patron**

Since 1968, in the wake of the thalidomide tragedy, the Government has required new medicines to be tested in animals. But 9 out of 10 drugs that pass animal tests are unsafe or ineffective in humans.[†]

It is time to compare animal tests with today's advanced human biology -based methods. Please ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 475 today.

[†] US Food and Drug Administration, 2004

A million Britons are hospitalised by prescription medicines every year, costing the NHS £2 billion – *Compass, 2008*



Tony Benn, Safer Medicines Patron

“The case for animal testing is now being directly challenged by scientists and doctors and their judgement must be taken seriously.”



Dr Caroline Lucas MP, Safer Medicines Patron

“More reliable methods will benefit everyone. A national strategy to replace outdated animal tests is urgently needed to improve the safety of medicines.”

The Safety of Medicines Bill 2010...

calls for an unprecedented scientific comparison of testing methods. Please ask your MP to support it by signing Early Day Motion 475 - see back page.



"If replacing animal tests could benefit drug safety, who could fail to be happy?"

Co-sponsor David Amess MP (Conservative)



"It is astonishing that animal testing has never been scientifically evaluated. This process is long overdue."

Co-sponsor Mike Hancock CBE MP (Liberal Democrat)



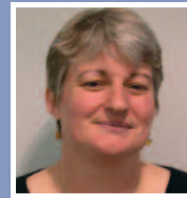
"These impressive technologies deserve a fair trial, to see if they could do a better job of protecting patients."

Co-sponsor Paul Flynn MP (Labour)

Advanced technologies include:

- ◆ **Human cells:** cheap, quick and easy to test new drugs on.
- ◆ **Human tissues:** including surgical 'waste', can reveal how a drug will affect a particular organ.
- ◆ **Microfluidics or 'lab-on-a-chip' technology:** uses interconnected human tissue samples to mimic drug effects on the whole body.
- ◆ **'Clinical trial in a test tube':** technology from VaxDesign produces mini immune systems from donated blood to test drugs and vaccines.
- ◆ **Human DNA chips:** used in conjunction with tissues, reveal how drugs affect cells and DNA.
- ◆ **Computer models:** can now offer virtual organs, virtual patients, and even virtual clinical trials.
- ◆ **Microdosing:** miniscule doses of new drugs given to volunteers reveal how they are metabolised in humans - safely and with unsurpassed accuracy.

EDM475



The best model for humans **is human**

"For too long we have used animal models for human disease. In the clinic, we treat patients, and therefore the most appropriate model is the human."

Professor Gerry Thomas, Hammersmith Hospital and Imperial College, London and Director of Scientific Services, Wales Cancer Bank



"Our unswerving reliance on animal tests for safety and efficacy in humans does not stand up to rigorous evaluation. It is now time to move towards more human focused testing for human medicines."

Dr Bob Coleman DSc, co-founder of Pharmagene, now Asterand, and Pharmaceutical Industry Consultant



"The sky is the limit, beyond animal research, when it comes to human tissue engineering."

Dr Kelly Bérubé, Director, Lung and Particle Research Group, Cardiff University



"If you really want to study human disease, you've got to study the human. Don't try studying something else as a surrogate, however tempting it might look because it's easier - you're going to get the wrong answer."

Professor Chris Foster DSc, MRCS, FRCPath, University of Liverpool



"An increased focus on human biology when developing drugs produces safer medicines, faster and cheaper."

Dr Katya Tsaïoun, founder and President, Aprelica

Please ask your MP to sign Early Day Motion 475:

“That this house believes that the safety of medicines should be established by the most reliable methods available in order to reduce the large and increasing toil of serious adverse drug reactions; and calls upon the Government to initiate an unprecedented comparison of currently required animal tests with a set of human biology-based tests, as proposed in the Safety of Medicines (Evaluation) Bill 2009, to see which is the most effective means to predict the safety of medicines for patients.”

EDM475



“We must move safety testing into the 21st century for all our sakes.”

Co-sponsor Bob Russell MP
(Liberal Democrat)

- **250 MPs signed a previous version of this EDM**
- **83% of GPs surveyed support this comparison**

Please send the enclosed postcard to your MP or write to them at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA (please contact us for further postcards to distribute)

Safer Medicines Campaign/Trust – please help us!

As an independent group of scientists and doctors, we are uniquely placed to explain why animal testing is a major obstacle to medical progress today.

- We regularly address MPs and speak on radio and TV, as well as to schools, universities and the public.
- We publish many articles and letters in newspapers and

scientific journals as well as running influential scientific conferences.

- Our film, *Safer Medicines*, is free to view from our website and we distribute free copies to educators and MPs. But we operate on a shoestring and need your help to continue this vital work.

Recycled paper

With your support we will do much more – please give generously today!

I enclose £10 £20 £50 £ to support your vital work

Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like to *Gift Aid* your donation to the Trust

We can keep costs down by not sending receipts. Please tick if you would like a receipt.

Please tick if you do not wish to receive our twice-yearly newsletter

Please send more of these leaflets
(donations towards costs appreciated)

Please send postcards

Please make cheques payable to ‘Safer Medicines Campaign’ or ‘Safer Medicines Trust’ and send to: Safer Medicines, PO Box 62720, London SW2 9FQ

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. **100% or your donation will go directly towards our vital work. Thank you.**

Name: _____

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