



DLRM newsletter

Winter/Spring 2005

Issue Number 12

Formerly: Doctors in Britain against Animal Experiments

Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (DLRM) was founded in 1995 out of Doctors in Britain against Animals Experiments (DBAE), founded in 1990. It is part of a growing international movement within the medical profession - now including lawyers - opposing, on medical and scientific grounds, all

animal-based medical research and testing. Its objective: **the total and immediate abolition of animal experiments** - 'immediate', in the context of the principles of DLRM, emphasises the worthlessness and danger to human health of all medical research based on **the unscientific methodology of vivisection.**

NEW PRESIDENT OF DLRM

Please note that Dr Reiss is no longer DLRM President. We wish him all the best for the future.

We most warmly welcome Dr Moneim Fadali* as our new president. Dr Fadali has been with DLRM since its inception, and is the author of 'Animal Experimentation A Harvest of Shame' which many of you will have read. As Professor Croce said, "The reality of damage to humans is stressed and documented in the first four chapters, but it pervades the whole book..."

* Dr Fadali, M.D., M.C.h., F.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.C., F.C.C.P. is: a diplomate of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Canada, in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery and the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology, the American College of Chest Physicians, and a member of the California Medical Association and the Los Angeles County Medical Association.
Dr Fadali has published books of poetry and philosophy in addition to professional papers.

'Medicine based on animal research is not only useless but dangerous. Species' differences lead to terrible mistakes, resulting in disease and death. Such methods must be abolished forthwith and replaced

The European Social Forum London 15-17 October 2004

The European Social Forum was launched from the World Social Forum (entitled 'ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE'), held in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001.

The Alliance for Responsible Science (AFRS) – of which DLRM is a part - challenges the validity of animal-based toxicology tests and calls for reliable toxic risk assessment, at the European Social Forum, London, 15-17 October 2004.

Introduction:

Fabrizia Pratesi (Italy), Coordinator of EQUIVITA Scientific Committee

Joy Palmer (UK), Co-founder/Director of DLRM (Doctors & Lawyers for Responsible Medicine)

Speakers:

Caroline Lucas (UK), Member of the Green Group in the European Parliament

Claude Reiss (France), Molecular toxicologist and President of Antidote-Europe

Gianni Tamino (Italy), Professor of Biology at the University of Padoa and President of EQUIVITA Scientific Committee

Enrico Moriconi (Italy), Veterinarian, President of ASVEP, Green Counsellor of the Piemonte Region

Daniela Guerra (Italy), Member of the Executive Board of the Italian Greens

Jarrod Bailey (UK), EFMA, Europeans for Medical Advancement

A special contribution by Moneim A. Fadali, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, Co-founder and President of DLRM

Moderator:

Wendy Corson (UK), Member of the Board of DLRM

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Animal Experimentation A Harvest of Shame

An absolute must! Do not miss this amazing read if you want to know details of why vivisection is not acceptable on any grounds.

INTRODUCTION

**I) DR. FABRIZIA PRATESI,
ITALY**

I am very happy to introduce this workshop on animal-based toxicity tests, which is part of the REACH project of the European Commission. As you know, REACH stands for Regulation, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals.

As I do not want to take time from our speakers, I shall limit myself to focusing two introductory statements very important to us.

1) = We want it to be known that we support the REACH project. Health statistics prove that the increase in many modern diseases, like cancer, is strictly linked to the chemical war we are exposed to. We therefore consider that it is very urgent for the European Union to have a new legislation for the regulation and authorisation of chemicals.

= However, our two organisations, which are scientific Committees and belong to the AFRS, ask for the abolition of animal-based tests in medical research: as our speakers will explain, conclusions drawn from animal research are misleading when applied to human diseases and are the most risible part of modern science.

= As we consider the European project senseless without a proper evaluation of the toxicity of the 100.000 non-tested chemicals that we are exposed to, we ask for animal tests to be banned from the REACH project. It is, first of all, a fight for human health, which of course implies a safe environment.

2) The second point I want to make is that this issue is not an animal welfare issue, although it has a tremendous impact on animal welfare and although we are also very concerned about that, needless to say.

To end, I want to answer an obvious question: "Why is it possible that such an unscientific method as animal-based research still has such a broad use in the world?" If you attend any of the seminars or workshops of this Forum you will find that any of the fights for human rights, brought by the many NGOs to the attention of the public, the opponent is always the same: a private economic interest. And

together, if we contribute to the Social Forum Movement, we will change this world into a better world; some of these changes have already occurred, thanks to our work.

To conclude I want to say that we must continue our fight no matter how powerful our opponent.

II) LET US NOT BE TOO LATE!

by Joy Palmer

Greetings from Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (DLRM), part of the Alliance for Responsible Science, and warm thanks to the organisers of the World Social Forum.

We are here today to challenge and correct the wrongs which are being perpetrated ruthlessly on the planet, in our name and without our permission. We are here to build another world, a world without suffering, war, hatred, racism - for all. This is an opportunity for good people to join together - in numbers and in unity there is strength. We must set aside differences that divide us if we are to win. DLRM came together nearly 20 years ago, deeply conscious of the growing dangers, suffering and death resulting from the fallacious medical research that is based on the false premise of animal experiments - false because of the vast differences between animals and humans, among many other considerations, as will be put before you today.

I myself am neither a doctor nor a scientist. The majority of doctors and scientists all over the world have let us all down, with the exception of some of those true and brave scientists who have joined with organisations such as DLRM, and other like organisations, and those who may follow. Also those who have tried to raise their voices in the past - (since hundreds of years ago and there have been many) but, alas, too often they have been and are being hushed up - by the media, the politicians, the misguided, the medical establishment including especially the pharmaceutical corporations, scientists and all those who stand to gain financially and in other ways.

We must stand up for the truth; only then can we hope to arrest the unspeakable suffering to which so many are being exposed. The chemicals are all around us so that it is unsafe to breathe the air, and even the water is being poisoned, not only by unsafe chemicals but also by medicines entering our drinking water. For instance, water fluoridation as practiced in Britain indiscriminately, is illegal medical research, violating Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights.*

We all bear a responsibility, if we do not act

What can we do? We cannot and must not be complacent. The consequences are too horrific. We must be aware.

We need to step up our endeavours, to redress the impending medical disasters, to double and redouble our efforts, to make sacrifices. We cannot leave matters to chance and to 'others'. Remember, if we stand together, we are not alone. Learn and understand the truth. The innocent, helpless creatures of this earth depend on us.

Disastrous climate change is already upon us. And much more! Humans and animals are being maimed and slaughtered in all directions. *Observe, listen, learn, question, inform others by spreading the facts, boycott, insist, unite.*

We can and must act. Quickly! We simply cannot turn away.

IT IS LATE.

LET US NOT BE TOO LATE!

* National Pure Water Association:
<http://www.npwa.freeserve.co.uk>

**Full text of speeches
obtainable on our website
(<http://www.dlrm.org>) or on
request
from DLRM
at £1.50 including postage.**

The President's Column

(From speech to the ESF, London)

Dr Fadali spoke passionately on the very grave dangers that mankind is raining on all creation, in a speech to the European Social Forum...:

The Clock is Ticking...

I am honoured to be invited to speak to the European Social Forum Meeting in London, October 15-17, 2004. I am told the primary concern for this meeting is the environment. High time! The clock is ticking ... global warming cannot be ignored anymore. We are the

environment. Environment is our ambience, our abode, the air we breathe, water that nurtures and earth that sustains and provides.

Along with the fellowship of *creation*, we all long to live. Environment is our destiny. Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine (DLRM) together with Comitato Scientifico (EQUIVITA) and Comité Scientifique (Pro Anima) constitute the Alliance for Responsible Science (AFRS): an *alliance for sanity and survival*. From London to Rome, to Paris, to nations worldwide. Unlike the North Atlantic Bermuda Triangle where many ships and planes mysteriously disappeared, ours is a safe harbour, a state of mind, a state of heart, a state of being; a station where bioenergy is harnessed to lift and energise ourselves and the *fellowship of creation*. Our message and voyage affirm and declare the universal admonition: Do No Harm; Live and Let live; Love and Let Love. Disregarded and neglected, the admonition metamorphosed into a distress call. Procrastination kills momentum. Move on with the *alliance for survival*. Now

Europeans are besieged by more than 100,000 chemicals, surreptitiously permeating their systems, inundating their organs and penetrating their cells. Yet, many don't know it. Approximately 98% of these intruders have not been tested for their effect on health of humans and the environment. Worldwide, chemicals pervade air, water and soil and do harm; from serious to grave to lethal. *Pity! Pity!* Deplorable since it is all avoidable. It takes courage, right seeing and true science, not denial, trickery and hocus-pocus science.

The European Commission (EC) has decided that these products must be evaluated. *WITH THIS WE CONCUR*, but we do not chime in with the EC putting its faith in animal-based testing; invalid and harmful, we say beware and cast a nay vote. Moreover, according to the EC's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) we will get to know the risk, by the year 2020. Not a good deal! No cheers. Sixteen years from now? How come? Wherefore? Why not 2004, 2005 or 2006 by the latest? Reason being, chemicals kill living matter, such as us! Sad, isn't it? Human cells and human tissue cultures are yearning to give the correct answer within the hour or within hours not years distant and afar. The grim toll continues to mount: cancer rates are increasing, asthma, especially in children is escalating, autism in children is soaring and the 10 billion-cell human brain is increasingly drifting,

80% of all cancers are preventable, two thirds of all diseases are diet related. Shouldn't we prevent the preventable? Eat right, treat the environment right, and stop wasting resources and treading roads that mislead. Therefore, to this Forum, the fallacy of testing chemicals and pharmaceuticals on animals does belong. It is an environmental issue.

Vivisection* (Animal Experimentation) is one of those evils grafted on to the human mind by the false prophets of science and reason. While some agile minds have rejected the ominous graft, others have accepted it as an article of faith, not to be questioned, let alone carefully looked at or seriously examined. And the verdict had been, is, and always will be: in harming others – human and non-human, sentient and nonsentient, knowingly and unknowingly – we harm ourselves. All the while being misled, all the while longing for harmony, longevity, security and bounty. Longing won't do it for us. Hope procrastinates, cowardice defeats, blind obedience corrupts; figures of authority must be questioned and held accountable; and, the burden of responsibility is individual, non-transferrable. Payday isn't light years away. It is here, today. Payday is now! Just look: along with higher cancer rates, asthma, dementia and autism, every survey reveals that obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and arthritis are raging, tempestuous and unrestrained. We are always paying for what we commit and for what we omit. Omission is commission.

**practically speaking, "vivisection" and "animal experimentation" are synonymous. Claude Bernard, the prince of vivisection, founder of experimental physiology, coined this term which implies all sorts of animal experiments, whether they involve cutting or not.*

Some facts about vivisection:

1. Animal models differ from their human counterparts. Conclusions drawn from animal research when applied to human disease delay progress, mislead and do harm to the patient. Not to be overlooked are crucial and sequential differences in anatomy and physiology between animal and humans. In genuine science be it biology, chemistry or mathematics, variances considered minor, on many occasions invalidate extrapolation; so, in transferring and inferring from animal to human and assuming the same outcome will follow, is farcical and foolhardy. Many drugs that were tested on animals and considered safe for humans, were proven unsafe when administered to humans.

2. Animal experimentation inevitably leads to human experimentation. Animal experimentation is a cover-up hiding and legitimatising human experimentation. Animal experimentation does not prevent human experimentation. A de facto licence to kill and bruise humans without being accused, questioned, arrested or punished, merely serving as a precursor, a prelude to the human misadventure. Vivisection may try it on animals a thousand and one times, but the moment they move on to the human condition still, they will be experimenting on humans.

3. The discovery of cause and effect between smoking and lung cancer came as a result of studies of human populations, not animals in the lab that never developed lung cancer after being exposed to smoking in the animal laboratory. Similarly, studies of human populations established that heart attacks are much more frequent in individuals who smoke, have

4. The claim that we owe most of our advances and breakthroughs in medicine to vivisection is false. Even whatever little, minuscule benefit came out of the infamous chamber of horrors (the animal laboratory) it could have been obtained by other means, better means. None of the following momentous discoveries came through animal experimentation: The circulation of blood, cardiac catheterisation, x-ray, CT scan, magnetic resonance, radium for cancer treatment, the standard microscope, the electron microscope, anticoagulants, blood transfusion and blood groups, Penicillin, sulfa drugs, cephalosporins, streptomycin, diuretics, beta blockers, digitalis, coronary bypass surgery, angioplasty; and more and more. If anything, animal experimentation has impeded, misled and delayed progress. Who pays the price? All animals, including the leader of the pack, *Homo sapiens*: US!

5. Alternatives to animal experimentation are many, versatile, available, more reliable, and scientific, not

pseudoscientific like vivisection is. Here are some: Cell culture, tissue culture, organ culture, epidemiological studies, clinical research (not experimentation) and autopsy studies, bacterial and protozoal culture, DNA studies. Animal experimentation is not only wasteful and unnecessary but also unjust to humans and animals alike.

6. Finally, animal experimentation and animal exploitation in all forms have no scientific proof, no religious basis, no philosophical merit, no ethical vindication and no health reason, therefore they must be stopped.

The task is not impossible. Persevere Upright. Live and Let Live. Love and Let Love. Remember, to the destiny of humanity, your intent and footprints count.

Review of "Animal Experimentation - A Harvest of Shame"...Dr Moneim Fadali

By DLRM Member, Clare Fordham

In his book Dr Fadali rigorously examines animal experimentation from both an ethical and a scientific standpoint. With penetrating intellectual scrutiny he disinters the myths and errors perpetuated by the vivisection heresy whose

proponents, setting themselves up as arbiters of human health, have led the practice of medicine down a blind tunnel. He details the appalling evidence of drugs launched on an unsuspecting public on the flimsy basis of "safety" tests on animals, later to be withdrawn as adverse side effects and deaths mount their tragic toll. He describes experiments conducted on animals in the name of science which make the blood run cold. And none of this need be. Reliable methods already exist which dispense with the use of the animal model and its outmoded conventions. His is

a clear vision of the way forward; his words light the lamp of truth on the grim secrecy of the animal laboratory, and the scientific mendacity of those who practise this cruel trade, doing untold harm to innocent creatures, both human and animal. It is difficult to do justice adequately to the stature of this book. Read it! It is imbued with wisdom and love, and is a passionate evocation of the oneness of creation and the bond between all living creatures which we desecrate at our peril.

Clare Fordham

To STP donors

Re: Scientific Toxicology Project

It is with great regret that we have to inform you that the above project, to which you kindly subscribed, will not now be proceeding as we had hoped and anticipated.

We sent out appeals to DLRM members and, to many hundreds of other appropriate individuals and organisations. However, the somewhat ambitious targets of £100,000 to £1m requested by our former president, Doctor Reiss, were not realised, despite the considerable expense and effort and time we put into raising the eventual £8,000 which we achieved.

In the circumstances it was decided at our board meeting on 7th August 2004, that we should offer to return the donations. Unless you would wish the money to be applied to DLRM projects in line with its aims and objectives, such as advertisements in the press, on which we are embarking.

Should we not hear from you by February 5 2005, we shall assume that you have opted to leave the money in the hands of DLRM, for this important project.

With all good wishes and many thanks for your support.

TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS -

NEW SUBSCRIPTION ARRANGEMENTS

We are about to initiate a new system for subscription renewals, which will in future be on a regular annual date, namely, 1 March.

If you have a Standing Order or Direct Debit with us, may we request that you arrange to renew your subscription on that date every year, likewise with cash or cheque subscriptions.

This year, we would be grateful if you would calculate your subscription on a *pro rata* basis, according to your most recent payment date, and send us a cheque on this basis.

We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

LETTERS TO THE PRESS

From DLRM President, Published by The Oxford Mail

November 11, 2004

Dear Editor,

I am stunned and dismayed to learn that Oxford University is building a new biomedical research support facility for Animal Experimentation. This misguided, utterly unnecessary undertaking by the venerable Oxford University prompted this response; I will deeply appreciate if you would consider it for your next Oxford mail edition.

Let there be no doubt that animal

condition, still they will be experimenting on humans. Pseudoscience! Illusion! No wonder humans pay the price. The record clearly documents that many drugs that were tested on animals and deemed safe for humans were proven unsafe when administered to humans. One of the latest disasters was 'Vioxx' of Merck & Co., Inc. Announced a few weeks ago, a grim reminder of the folly and falsehood of animal experimentation. Vioxx, to relieve pain of arthritis, silenced the hearts of many who used it.

Breakthroughs in medicine did not come out of animal experimentation as its advocates and practitioners claim. Just a few examples of momentous discoveries that had nothing to do with animal research: The discovery of cause

cephalosporins, diuretics, beta blockers, digitalis, coronary bypass surgery and more and more. All, repeat all, were not the product of animal experimentation.

While reliable research methods are available, why opt for the deceptive and tormenting? Here are some means proven worthy of our confidence: cell culture, tissue culture, organ culture, epidemiological studies clinical research (not experimentation) autopsy, bacterial cultures and DNA studies dependable and worthy of our confidence!

I hope Oxford University will reconsider its decision in the name of the innumerable numbers of human beings that were seriously harmed by animal experimentation. Certainly the toll will keep rising if this misguided, cruel

Sent by DLRM member to The Observer

Dear Sir,

I was immeasurably saddened to read in your second leader a defence of, and justification for, the projected new science laboratory near Cambridge.

Vivisection is a crime, not only against animals but also human beings. No data extrapolated from the animal model to the human has ever been reliable due to species difference. The many drugs developed and tested on animals that have been withdrawn following adverse effects and deaths in human beings prove this.

Why does it continue? Because it is a vast money-making industry. It is also shrouded in secrecy. Society cannot condemn what it cannot see.

People of great stature down the ages have condemned vivisection, as do many today. We are in good company: Leonardo da Vinci, Voltaire, Goethe, Schiller, Schopenhauer, Victor Hugo, Ibsen, Wagner, Tennyson, Ruskin, Tolstoy, Cardinals Manning and Newman, Mark Twain, G.B. Shaw, Mahatma Gandhi, C.G. Jung, Clare Booth Luce, Albert Schweitzer, Garibaldi, Bismarck and Lord Dowding. Also, there is a book citing 1000 doctors against vivisection.

Albert Schweitzer said, "Those who experiment on animals should never be able to quiet their own conscience by telling themselves that these cruelties have worthy aim."

Yours sincerely,

Clare Fordham (Mrs)

From Psychic News, by kind permission

Vivisection is 'scientific fraud'

VIVISECTION can never be justified – not even for the billions of pounds and dollars it brings to those who practise it. It is medical and scientific fraud.

Hippocrates, who lived in the fifth century BC - and who is still considered to be the greatest physician of antiquity – obviously never entertained the gruesome idea of experimenting on animals.

His great admonition to his medical student was, "First, do no harm."

The vivisection syndicates of today have completely turned their backs on Hippocrates and his methodology. Nothing is too harmful in the mindless practices of those addicted to the futility and frauds of animal experimentation.

Hippocrates considered strict medical hygiene of paramount importance. Modern vivisection laboratories may contain piles of rotting and dying animals.

Hans Ruesch – the internationally famed author and medical historian – states that "millions of human beings have been killed by a medical therapy based on animal experiments."

In his books, "Slaughter of the Innocent" and the "Naked Empress - The Great Medical Fraud" he provides ample evidence to back the claim, which is also corroborated in "1,000 Doctors (and many more) Against Vivisection". Vivisection is literally costing us the earth!

Frederick Bacon
Mansfield, Notts

**Sent to The Observer
(Not published yet)**

Letters Editor
THE OBSERVER

Dear Editor,

Why did the pharmaceutical corporations, with the help of The Observer, see fit to devote almost six pages of the broadsheet (Sunday 12/12/2004) trying to justify the so-called necessity of using animal experimentation in the search for cures for human disease?

Surely they are not so ignorant as not to understand that it is impossible, due to cross-species differences, to extrapolate from animal to human? Or are they, perhaps, too dangerous to entrust with our health?

Could this massive press coverage be a sign of desperation? Are they all running scared as shares dive and more and more patients become aware of their drugs maiming and killing? The latest list of drugs to be questioned for safety and validity include: **Vioxx** (Merck - prescribed for arthritic pain, withdrawn because of heart failure); **Bextra** (Pfizer - reported heart problems); **Iressa** (AstraZeneca - cancer drug reported no better than placebo); **Exanta** (AstraZeneca - anti-coagulant pill, which has been rejected by the FDA); **Celebrex** (Pfizer - another leading arthritis drug under question had more than double the risk of heart attack and strokes in one trial). What a blow for those unfortunate patients who have been damaged or let down in this way!

It is well known – the greater the threat, the louder shout the powers.

Yours,

Christopher Day
Vice President

Joy Palmer
Founder-Director

NANOTECHNOLOGY

Deirdre Balaam

The next major technological revolution has already begun – it is called NANOTECHNOLOGY, which is the manipulation of matter on the atomic/molecular scale, ie at the scale of the nanometer (nm) which is one billionth of a meter, or about 1/80,000th the width of a human hair. Nanotechnology means manipulating individual atoms and placing them into new molecular structures that do not exist in nature, ie forming synthetic nanoparticles. Billions of dollars (and other currencies) are being spent world wide in the race to develop nano-devices and materials (many of which are already on the market) without, it seems, a care as to their possible hazardous effects on humans, animals, plants and the environment. Many synthetic nano-scale products are already on the market.

There are no regulations anywhere in the world dealing with nanotechnology issues. Nanoparticles are highly reactive, and nobody really understands what they may do; they are going into places in the body where particles have never been able to before. As far as direct risks are concerned, almost every study into the toxicity of nanoparticles has found that they tend to be more toxic – and differently so – than their normal sized equivalents. Because of their size, they can get into lungs without being challenged by white blood cells; they can get across the blood-brain barrier; they appear to be able to get across a pregnant woman's placenta; particles deposited in the nose go straight to the brain. Animals are being used for research in this new technology.

Swiss Re, the second largest insurance company in the world, looked at the health and toxicity questions of nanoparticles and their implications for insurance. Their conclusion is that this looks very similar to the case of asbestos. It is the same sort of exposure that people are opening themselves up

to. Nanotech has such a wide variety of usage that the patenting of artificial molecules has become a huge issue; at present, there are between one and two thousand patents a year being granted on nanotechnologies. In fact, this huge wide-open field is what is driving nanotech profits. We are now looking at patents being taken out not only on life, but on *matter itself*. Patents will be used by the same company across several areas: IBM and NEC claim they have the key patenting on nano-tubes. Carbon nano-tubes will be used for computing, yes – but also for pharmaceuticals, and creating stronger materials, and electricity.

Governments are massively funding nanotechnology, and are strongly committed to it. So far as is known, they are doing little or nothing as far as research on the risks and social impacts are concerned.

THE FUTURE

This is just the beginning of nanotechnology – the first wave. The next stage is to combine nanotech with biotech – rewiring life on the nano-scale. Nanobiotechnology means the merging of living and non-living realms at the nano-scale to make hybrid materials and organisms, involving the integration of biological materials with synthetic materials to build new molecular structures or products. The financial predictions are that by 2011 the nanotech industry will be worth a trillion dollars, making it possibly the most powerful industry in the whole wide world.

SOURCES:

The 2 organisations who are trying to alert those who will possibly suffer most: Corporate Watch Newsletter 19: July/August 2004

ETC Group – read their splendid and detailed website: www.etcgroup.org/

**REVIEW OF PROFESSOR CROCE'S
BOOK "VIVISECTION OR SCIENCE?"
WHICH APPEARED IN THE BRITISH
MEDICAL JOURNAL**

Animal rights activists have made the headlines several times already this year. However, if you think that anti-vivisectionists are just fanatical arsonists, weird hippies, or old ladies who feed stray cats, then think again. In this disturbing and thought provoking book, Professor Pietro Croce, an Italian scientist who used to experiment on animals himself, explains why he now believes this is unethical. Surprisingly, this view is not based on his love of animals but rather his "concern for the health of other human beings".

His main argument is that using animals as an experimental model for humans is methodologically flawed and unscientific and has led to many people being harmed or even killed. He gives many examples of this, including the case of thalidomide. This drug was first prescribed to pregnant women in 1957 and marketed as a harmless tranquilliser. In 1961, after "repeated and

rigorous animal experiments", British Distillers distributed the drug around the world, resulting in the birth of thousands of children with phocomelia. Croce argues that catastrophes like this are inevitable given the biological differences between animals and humans, and supports this with some fascinating examples. For instance, sweet almonds, the basic ingredient of marzipan, are poisonous to dogs, foxes and turkeys; chloroform is toxic to cats and rabbits; and isoprenaline is tolerated by cats in doses

175 times greater than considered safe for humans.

Croce also says that experimenting on animals is a slippery slope to experimenting on humans. This may sound far fetched, but Croce gives many examples to bolster his concerns. Hepatitis B vaccine, for example, was first "tested" by Dr Krugman on institutionalised children without their consent. Krugman had started off experimenting on animals.

So what is the alternative? Croce explains in great detail how epidemiological methods,

computer simulation, and in vitro studies can be effectively used instead of animal experiments. In fact he takes great exception to these methods being called "alternative" and instead calls them "scientific".

Although Croce doesn't mince his words, this is a balanced and thoroughly researched book. It also has a long history. It was first published in Italian in 1981 and was translated into English in 1991. This is an updated edition of what is generally regarded as "the Bible of anti-vivisection".

If you want to read a book that challenges everything you think you know about science and research, then this is the one for you. It certainly changed my view.

Rhona MacDonald, *BMJ*

©BMJ 2001

BINA ROBINSON'S LETTER FROM AMERICA

NEW YORK

**VETERINARIANS BEHIND THE
TIMES**

From a discussion and paper presented at a recent convention of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior, the only veterinarian member of the British Parliament, explained that society's responsibilities to animals dictate the content of British animal welfare laws. He maintained, however, that, despite strenuous lobbying and sometimes violent tactics, animal rights proponents have not succeeded in getting Parliament to give animals legal rights. "The question of animal rights ... has not been a consideration of legislation in the UK," he said.

Lord Soulsby noted that Parliament had recently approved a national centre for promoting the three R's (reduction, replacement, refinement of a fundamentally flawed methodology) and that animals in research were protected by the Animal Scientific Procedures Act of 1986 (an act most animal proponents consider to have

laws will have to be revised as more is learned about animals and their needs.

John A Shaddock, DVM, PhD, a former dean at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine, presented a paper he had written with Colorado State University professor Bernard Rollin, PhD, who has, according to the AVMA journal, written and lectured extensively on animal rights. The paper noted that there is growing concern that animals be treated in accordance with their natures in addition to being protected from deliberate cruelty. He did not explain how confining animals in small cages met this requirement but warned that the social ethic toward animals is changing and that veterinarians must "participate thoughtfully and effectively, or we become passive bystanders to our own future. The very core of our profession is at stake".

These gentlemen are behind the times in failing to acknowledge what more and more animal rights and welfare proponents are beginning to understand, namely that results from research conducted on other species are applicable to humans only by unpredictable

Yet, researchers are fond of telling the public that advancements in medicine would be reduced to a crawl if they were to stop experimenting on animals when just the opposite is true. Advancements in human medicine would speed up if resources now devoted to animal experiments were to be used in the many non-invasive research methods with direct human application.

Fortunately, the work of DLRM and similar organisations around the world, which base their educational efforts on exposing the uncertain "science" of trying to extrapolate results obtained from one species to another, is raising public knowledge, including that of animal rights and welfare proponents, to the extent that the social implications of animal experimentation, but unfortunately not yet the scientific ones, became an item on the agenda of the AVMA convention.

The AVMA would advance its own knowledge if it were to consider opinions from the humane medical profession like our own president. Dr Moneim A. Fadali, who has forthrightly stated: "Animal models differ from their human counterparts. Conclusions

SOURCES:

- *American Journal of Veterinary Medicine, September 15, 2004*
- Moneim A. Fadali, MD, "Animal Experimentation a harvest of shame"

"Emerging animal welfare ethic transcends borders"

BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2000 BC: Here, eat this root.

1000 AD: That root is heathen. Say this prayer.

1850 AD: That prayer is pure superstition. Here, drink this potion.

1940 AD: That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.

1985 AD: That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.

2000 AD: That antibiotic doesn't work any more. Here, eat this root.

(Taken from p 7 of The Ecologist, Dec 04-Jan 05, by kind permission)

LEGACIES AND WILLS

Some of our members and supporters may wish to leave us a legacy in their will. It is important that you are very clear in your wording to avoid the legacy being absorbed in legal costs. You should mention the full name of the organisation and the full address as follows:

"I bequeath unto Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine of PO Box 302, London N8 9HD the sum of (amount in words and figures) free of tax and I direct that receipt of the treasurer or other authorised officer of the Society shall be a good and sufficient discharge of such a legacy".

Library displays

The public has responded most positively to library displays of DLRM literature. In many instances we have reports of people approaching the display screens even as the materials were being mounted and asking for leaflets and information, which of course members were happy to provide. Many members of the public also entered into interesting discussions.

DLRM members can do much to raise awareness among people, of the existence of animal experimentation.

Here are some examples:

I – LEAFLETS:

- ordering and distributing leaflets;
- inserting leaflets in envelopes when writing letters, paying bills, etc.

II- PUBLIC MEETINGS:

- making an effort to persuade organisations, trade unions, etc, to set up meetings with speakers invited from DLRM (where leaflets can also be distributed and/or videos shown, followed by discussion).

III- NEW MEMBERS:

- gifts of membership and/or books to doctors, lawyers and others. Note: membership includes 'Friends of DLRM', e.g. who support our aims.

And further to these:

For those members who are able to distribute our literature, please do order some of our leaflets, books, etc, available from the DLRM office at:

PO Box 302, London N8 9HD - tel.: 020 8340 2482
fax: 020 8340 9813.