



12 March 2026

Membership of the European Animal Research Association (EARA)

Dear Elisa, I am writing to invite the Università di Verona to join the [European Animal Research Association \(EARA\)](#). EARA is a not-for-profit association that has over 235 member organisations in [47 countries across five continents worldwide](#). In Italy we have eleven member institutions.

EARA was established to better inform the public and political decision makers of the continued need for, and benefits of, the humane use of animals in medical, veterinary, scientific and environmental research. EARA provides support, advocacy and reliable communication on behalf of public and private researchers at both national and European levels for its members.

EARA has offices in London, Brussels and Lisbon. Our presence in Brussels has helped EARA expand its public affairs role in the EU, ensuring that EARA continues to represent the European biomedical research sector with all key stakeholders.

Membership of EARA will provide the following benefits:

1. Membership of an organisation that has become recognised by the European Commission as an essential stakeholder, representing public and private biomedical research in Brussels.
- EARA attends meetings of the National Contact Points for the EU Directive 2010/63/ on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. This is where the regulatory framework that governs animal-based research in the EU is overseen through discussions between the EU Commission and the 27 EU Member States. EARA collaborates with the Commission on several projects to improve the public understanding and acceptance of animal research, and to ensure a supportive operating environment for research in Europe. This gives our members important insights into regulatory direction and the opportunity to ensure that the voice of animal and human health is heard with the Commission.
- EARA has responded to several regulatory and supply chain challenges to the use of animals in scientific research by submitting expert opinion on behalf of the research sector to the Commission. Safe and reliable transportation of research animals by air, rail and road is an essential element of medical and scientific advancements across the globe. Without the ability to move research models from one country or continent to another, or from a breeder to a research institution, crucial scientific research seeking new treatments will stall. EARA has coordinated the sector's response to troublesome proposals regarding the transport of research animals in the EU. Through meetings with Permanent Representatives, their veterinary leads and Commission officials we supplied them with alternative wording for the proposed revision of rules governing the protection of animals during transport. We believe our intervention has helped halt potentially damaging new regulations.

EARA will increase its efforts to engage with regulators and the public on the continuing need for animal models to be used in scientific research. These efforts will include:

European Animal Research Association

Registered address: Spaces European District, Rue Belliard 40, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

UK: 3.04 LABS Atrium, The Stables Market, Chalk Farm Rd, London NW1 8AH

+32 (0)2786 30 37 www.eara.eu info@eara.eu @The_EARA

+44 (0)20 3355 7458

Company no. 8924697 VAT no. 184 1486 91



Political response: EARA is increasing the scientific community's engagement with the European Parliament and European Commission to advocate for animal and human health science and innovation in Europe.

Scientific response: We are creating EARA-member scientific expert working groups, this will help EARA navigate the growing number of proposals to shift with speed away from the use of animal models in research. Given MSD's expertise we would welcome your involvement in future projects.

2. Communications response: EARA is increasing its efforts to improve the public understanding and acceptance of the use of animal models by encouraging greater communication to the public by research institutions. EARA encourages the biomedical sector to make a commitment to openness and transparency in its use of animals for research.

Transparency and openness in the public debate on animal research is increasing on many continents. Since the 2014 launch of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research, the scientific community in Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland have joined forces by signing up to national [Transparency Agreements](#) that seek to improve communication with the public about animal research. EARA has also helped to establish a Transparency Agreement in New Zealand and Australia, and we are planning for the same in Sweden, Ireland, Austria, Canada and importantly Italy.

3. We will provide you with expert advice to guide your internal and external communications on animal research, including reduced-fee media training and workshops, and website content guidance. The EARA Communications Handbook provides institutions with the necessary tools to develop and implement, at their own pace, an improved communications strategy on animal research.

The EARA Communications Handbook is free for EARA members. We will discuss with you the steps you can take to meet any communications challenge. You will receive on-call communications support to assist you during any communications campaign or crisis. We will also provide you and your colleagues with the weekly EARA News Digest (Monday), EARA Policy Briefing (Thursday) and quarterly Member Newsletter, plus confidential briefings, to keep you engaged with the EARA network and beyond.

We would be happy to offer a yearly membership fee of 2,000 euros. If this is acceptable, please return the completed membership form, so that we can then process your membership.

Best regards, Kirk Leech

Executive Director
European Animal Research Association

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