

Workshop on communicating animal research

Animal experiments - Transparency and communication about an emotional topic

Stefan Treue and Roman Stilling, Göttingen and Münster

In September 2016, the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany, representing the majority of publicly-funded research activities in Germany, launched a transparency initiative called *Tierversuche verstehen* (understanding animal experiments) to engage in open, transparent and fact-based communication with the public.

Tierversuche verstehen provides information on the necessity of responsible animal research, which is characterised by making informed decisions for animal welfare, acknowledging the benefits of scientific knowledge for man and also developing and using alternative methods.

Tierversuche verstehen also challenges the claims, rhetorics and actions of groups attempting to end use of animals in research and responds to media when the ethics and importance of research using animals is questioned.

Centrepiece of the initiative is the online platform www.tierversuche-verstehen.de but the initiative is also active on Twitter and has its own YouTube channel.

This information event will provide an overview of the current situation regarding the use of animals in neuroscience research. The topics will include:

- a presentation of the experiences and activities of the initiative *Tierversuche verstehen*
- the situation in Europe concerning communication and the state of the European Directive on animal research
- a discussion with the audience on current issues and on the role of individual researchers, neuroscience societies and other organisations in the public and political debate about animal research

The event should therefore be of interest to any researcher involved in or benefitting from research using animals.

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Thursday, March 23, 2017
13:30 - 14:30, Lecture Hall 4

Chairs: Stefan Treue and Roman Stilling,
Göttingen and Münster

- 13:30 **Introductory remark**
- 13:45 **Short presentation**
- 14:15 **Discussion and conclusion**
- 14:30 **End of the workshop**



Tierversuche verstehen
Eine Informationsinitiative der Wissenschaft