

About Safer Medicines

We are an independent group of scientists and doctors, with extensive expertise in medical research and drug development.

- Our aim is to change the way medicines are tested, to a system based on *human biology*: the *only* way to ensure safety for patients.
- We publish articles, letters and papers in newspapers and scientific journals. Our motions on the Safety of Medicines were among the most highly supported UK parliamentary motions between 2005 and 2012.
- You can see our film, **Safer Medicines**, on our website. Also our international scientific conferences at the Royal Society and the House of Lords.
- Safer Medicines Trust is a founder member of the Alliance for Human Relevant Science
www.HumanRelevantScience.org

 @HumanRelevant



4 ways you can help

- 1** Sign our petition at www.SaferMedicines.org calling on the Government to mandate more reliable safety tests for new medicines.
- 2** Download/order petition sheets and collect more signatures.
- 3** Order free copies of this leaflet to distribute as widely as possible.
- 4** Please give generously today – our success depends on your support.



Human relevant science saves lives

Our vision:



Medicines are now our 3rd leading cause of death; killing more than 500,000 Europeans and Americans each year.†

† *Deadly Medicines and Organised Crime*, 2013 } Professor Peter C. Gotzsche. See www.deadlymedicines.dk
Deadly Psychiatry and Organised Denial, 2015 }
The Risks of Prescription Drugs, 2010. Edited by Professor Donald W. Light. See www.pharmamyths.net

I would like to help Safer Medicines continue this vital work:

I enclose: £5 £10 £20 £_____ to support your vital work

- Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like to **gift aid** your donation (if donating to the Trust)
- We can keep costs to a minimum by not sending receipts – please tick if you would like a receipt
- Please tick if you would like a standing order form, to help us plan ahead with confidence

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

Please send _____ petition sheets

Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Please make cheques payable to either: 'Safer Medicines Campaign' or to our charitable arm 'Safer Medicines Trust'. Please send to: Safer Medicines, PO Box 122, Kingsbridge, TQ7 9AX

With no corporate or government funding, we rely completely on your generosity. We don't have expensive overheads: all our office space is donated without charge. Thank you for your invaluable support.

www.SaferMedicines.org  @SaferMedicines



One reason medicines have so many side effects is that animal tests are the main form of screening before human trials. But we now know that animal tests cannot predict safety for humans.

New tests *can* predict many side effects that animal testing fails to detect. **But there is no legal requirement to use them!**

Help us replace unreliable animal tests

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Medicines are tested on patients and volunteers in clinical trials after they have been ‘shown to be safe’ in animals. Yet animal tests have never been shown to be fit for this purpose.

Analysis of thousands of studies on dogs, mice, rats, rabbits and monkeys shows that they have very little scientific value in predicting the safety of medicines for humans.¹

Nine out of ten drugs that appear safe and effective in animal tests prove unsafe or ineffective in human trials.

US Food and Drug Administration White Paper: *Innovation or Stagnation*, 2004



In India, hundreds of people die each year in trials for western medicines (2,644 between 2005-2012).²



Next-generation science

Modern science now offers advanced techniques using human tissue (with patients' consent), sophisticated computer simulations, low-risk studies in volunteers, and 3D 'organs-on-a-chip', which can be interconnected as a model 'human-on-a-chip'. Yet our government still insists on animal tests, while the US calls for their replacement by "more efficient *in vitro* tests and computational techniques"

(US National Research Council, *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century*, 2007).

The problem is not lack of science – it's lack of political will

Scientists around the world agree that government regulators need to speed up their approval of superior new technologies to make medicines safer.

¹ Predicting Human Drug Toxicity and Safety via Animal Tests: Can Any One Species Predict Drug Toxicity in Any Other, and Do Monkeys Help? *ATLA* 43, 393-403, 2015

² A heaven for clinical trials, a hell for India, Andrew Buncombe, *The Independent*, 30 September 2013

As well as giving false assurances of safety, animal studies often mislead research and delay the development of medicines:

"The mouse has cost us a new generation of medicines... We keep getting led down the garden path... This isn't just true for TB; it's true for virtually every disease."

Dr Clifton Barry, Chief of TB Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA



The Mouse Trap, Daniel Engber, *Slate.com*, 16 November 2011

MPs strongly support our campaign.

Yet Government inaction is blocking the modernisation of safety testing that market forces would otherwise deliver.

A message from our Patrons



Dr James Le Fanu
Doctor and writer



Mat Fraser Actor
and thalidomider



Caroline Lucas MP
(Green Party Co-Leader)

“ No other area of science still relies on the flawed methods of 50 years ago. We **must** move safety testing into the 21st century – for all our sakes. ”



Carol Royle
Actress



Paul Flynn MP
(Labour)



Sir David Amess MP
(Conservative)