



The European Partnership
for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing



European
Commission

3Rs SCIENCE PRIZE 2016

Call for submissions

RATIONALE

The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) is proud to launch this call to apply for the 2016 3Rs Science Prize. This year, the EPAA will grant a Prize for already achieved research, or a project already at the completion stage with outstanding results. The EPAA 3Rs Science Prize is granted every other year to a scientist whose contribution to 3Rs is found to be outstanding. Its purpose is to promote such positive contributions from industry or academia and to encourage more scientists in the future to focus their research to the 3Rs goals. Scientists working on methods for safety and/or quality testing and applying the 3Rs (replacement, reduction or refinement of animal testing) to those methods may apply for this prize.

An EPAA jury made of 6 representatives (2 from industry, 2 from European Commission and 2 from the EPAA Mirror Group*) evaluates the submissions and provides the EPAA Steering Committee with a detailed recommendation. Based on this recommendation, the SC should then endorse the winner, and grant a 10,000€ prize.

The prize grant will be provided to the research institution of the successful candidate to be announced at the EPAA Annual conference, on December 5th 2016. The awardee will also get the opportunity to give a presentation of his/her work in front of the EPAA annual conference participants, gathering regulators, industry stakeholders, academia and civil society.

ABOUT EPAA

The EPAA was created in 2005 as a European Partnership between services of the European Commission and stakeholders from several sectors of the European industry. To date, it gathers 5 Directorates-general of the EC, 35 companies from 7 sectors: animal health, chemicals, cosmetics, crop protection, fragrances, pharmaceuticals and soaps & detergents.

* The Mirror Group is the advisory body of EPAA consisting of representatives of so-called civil society and includes academia, animal welfare and patient groups.

SELECTION CRITERIA

6 selection criteria are defined as shown below and weighted simple or double.

Each criterion may be assessed by jury members with rating from 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good). Applications may therefore be rated 0-40 by every single jury member, thus ranking the application out of 240 points on total.

1. Impact on the 3Rs (reduction of animal numbers etc. * WEIGHTED 2*
2. Innovativeness/Contribution to meeting an urgent unmet scientific need
3. Possible Applicability of the method/approach for regulatory testing (including for safety or potency/quality) *WEIGHTED 2*
4. Impact on predictive safety science (better data/science is obtained thanks to the work of the applicant compared to the current Animal method)
5. Work potentially applicable widely i.e. to other methods and endpoints and across sectors
6. International remit (already published work, number of publications, rankings in the peer-reviewed journals etc.)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & REQUIREMENTS

- Scientists working on alternative methods (replacement, reduction or refinement of animal testing) for safety or potency/quality testing purposes may apply.
- Applicants should be based in Europe in one of the following countries: EU 28 Member States, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Monaco, Andorra, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Ukraine, Moldova and FY-ROM
- Applicants should have no more than 10 years of postgraduate experience.
- Applicants should be able to deliver a case study based on actual research (i.e. not a project on future research and no older than the last 5 years) where their personal commitment and implication is shown.
- Applicants may apply on behalf of a team, however the prize grant will then be split equally between research institutions of the members from the aforementioned team.
- Applicants should make sure they are available on December 5th (to present their work at the EPAA Annual Conference)
- Should no application get at least 160/240, the EPAA Steering Committee may decide not to grant the prize.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To submit an application, the following documents should be sent by email to grow-epaa@ec.europa.eu before Friday 23rd September at noon, Brussels time:

- ❶ CV with a list of publications
- ❷ Cover letter where the applicant should explain why his/her work is a meaningful contribution to 3Rs.
- ❸ A max. 2500 words case study where the applicant should introduce his/her work or the selected project for the application and its achievements/results. Pictures, illustrations and videos may also be attached to the case study if relevant. The case study should clearly define the regulatory endpoint targeted, the method implemented and the results obtained.
- ❹ Letter of support/endorsement from their current organisation/employer.

Enquiries should be directed to grow-epaa@ec.europa.eu

TIMELINES

- May 30th: Launch of the call for submissions
- September 23rd noon: Deadline for submissions
- November 24th Winner to be notified and invited then by, to attend the EPAA annual conference in Brussels (sponsored by EPAA)
- December 5th: EPAA Annual Conference “Science based Regulation”, in Brussels.

PREVIOUS WINNER

Dr Riina Sarkanen from the University of Tampere/FICAM was awarded the 2014 EPAA Science Prize. She was granted the €10,000 prize for her outstanding research that helped develop a novel in vitro human-based vascular network model. Dr Sarkanen’s work was unanimously acknowledged by the Science Award Scientific Advisory Committee as the highest quality application received.

Further information on Dr Sarkanen’s work is available on <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/081bb59d-a9c2-4d12-a3cf-653ff9bba83e/01-sarkanen.pdf>