

9- Animal welfare in pharmaceutical research: are the current regulatory improvements enough?

During the debate Julie was the chair, Julien was the for advocate and Valentin was the against advocate. Julie started with a short introduction and said that the pharmaceutical research on animals is an important part in the research to test drugs or found new treatment for a disease. A lot of animals are used like mice, rats, primates, dogs. Nowadays, there are laws about the living conditions of the animals but for you, are the currently regulatory improvements enough?

Julien replied that they are only used when the benefits are more important than the animal's suffering. Valentin said that we are using animals to test drugs, animals suffer, feel everything like humans and these tests are causing deadly pain to animals. Julien said that scientists try to replace animals methods, to try to reduce the pain and an important point in laws is that in Europe there is a law about the cosmetic. Valentin replied immediately that utilisation of animals is more and more presents each year. Most of the time animals are dying for nothing, only 0,00002% percent use for positive results.

Julien added that animals are grown in specific establishment where they take care specifically of experimental animals. If a test cause pain to the animal there is anaesthesia before the experiment. Valentin said, "so you think they are not living hell? See this picture." He showed pictures of animals in jail, with pain and added that it is not only monkeys, there are rats and lots of animals.

Julien said that very few animals have pain or are distressed during experiments. Valentin answered that he forgot about the Chinese experiment because you must try it every time on animals before. He added that we could do a computer modelling for alternatives. But Julien added that we cannot predict how a drug will affect the organism. At the moment we don't have other solution than using animals for trials. So Valentin replied that we are working on those animals but don't have the same metabolism as them. It is not working. Julien asked, "are you vaccinated against some disease ? Is made up with stabiliser" Valentin answered that we do not have to stop animal testing, but it is not the best solution. We have other ways to study. Julien added that we cannot use that, scientist agree with and there are open-minded to use other methods on other next decades. Valentin disagreed said that scientist is not open-minded like he thought, it is possible to change the system because we worked with animals but there was no need to use them.

Julien added that laboratories encourage scientists to communicate on the use of animals for scientific research. To conclude Julie asked, "we have to find other methods that are effective? What do you think about that?." Julien and Valentin were both agreed to say that we need more controls and laws to reduce the use of animals in research.