

ADVANCING NEW APPROACH METHODOLOGIES (NAMs) IN BELGIUM THROUGH THE IC-3Rs PLATFORM

Vera Rogiers & Axelle Cooreman
Innovation Centre-3Rs (IC-3Rs)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Creation of IC-3Rs



2010/63/EU: protection of animals used for scientific purposes
→ MS must implement 3Rs into national legislation
→ Create 3R Centre



Sixth State Reform in Belgium (01/07/2014)
→ Delegation of powers, incl. Animal Welfare to the regional level
→ Flanders, Brussels, Wallonia

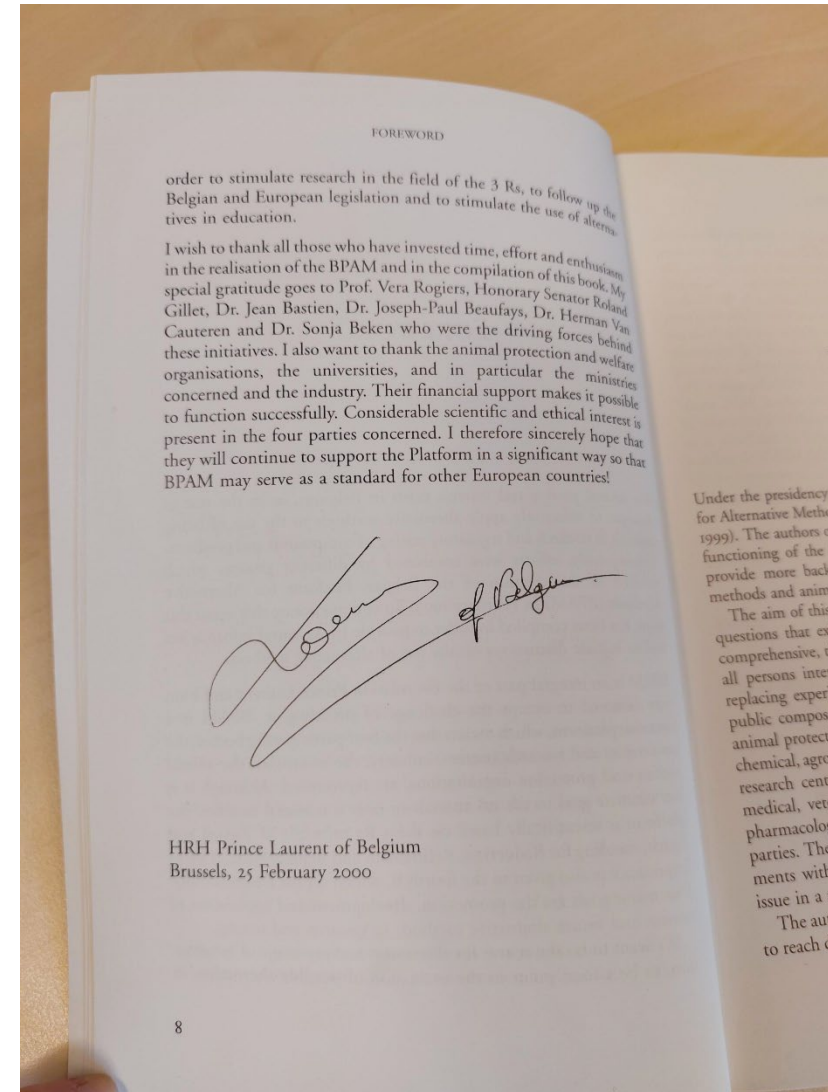
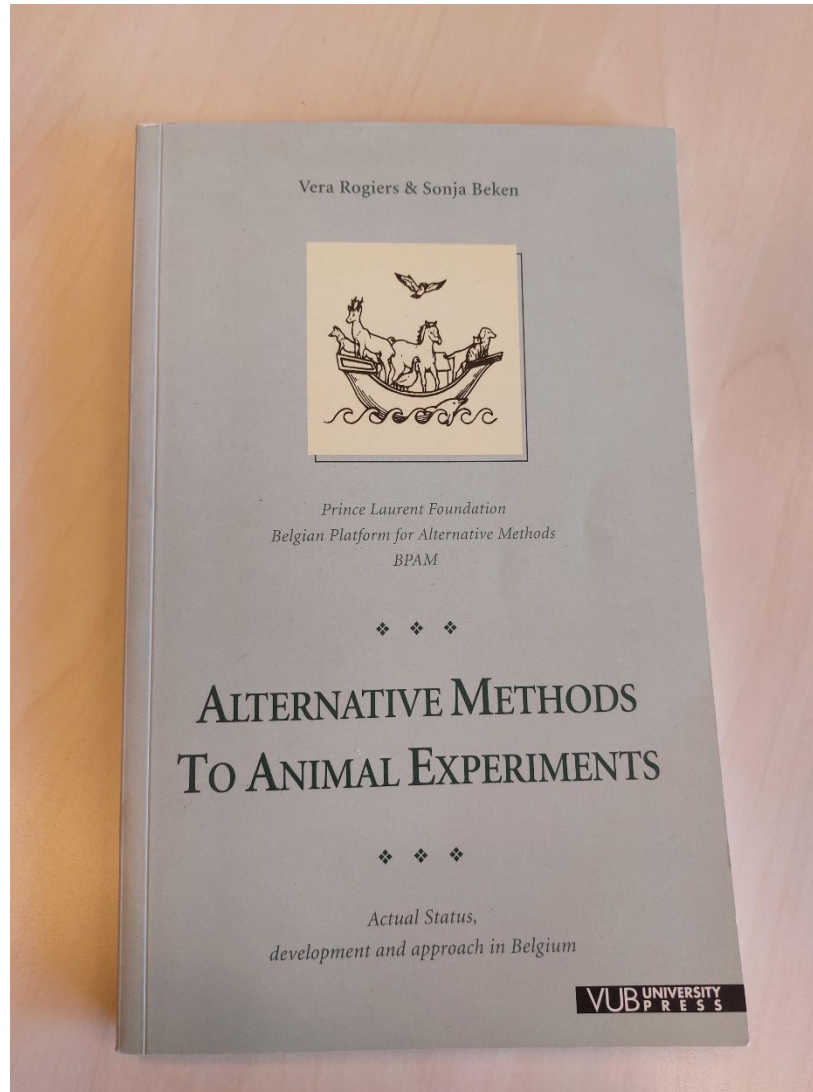


Creation at VUB of Innovation Centre-3Rs (IC-3Rs) in 2017

Based on science: 3R-pioneer since 1985, national and international level

Creation of IC-3Rs

Based on science: 3R-pioneer since 1985, national and international level



SOLID FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Brussels Capital region



State Secretary
Bianca Debaets



Minister
Bernard Clerfayt



Philanthropist Mireille Aerens †
Chair Mireille Aerens for the
Development of Alternative Methods

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE: Academic and industrial experts in 3Rs

CHAIR & CO-CHAIR: Vera Rogiers & Tamara Vanhaecke (VUB)

Goal of IC-3Rs



**ADVANCE HUMAN HEALTH THROUGH BEST SCIENCE, CONTRIBUTE TO ANIMAL WELFARE
PROMOTION & APPLICATION OF 3Rs IN A BALANCED WAY**

No animal use → wherever scientifically possible

Animal use → when no alternatives yet exist

→ correct numbers and humane way



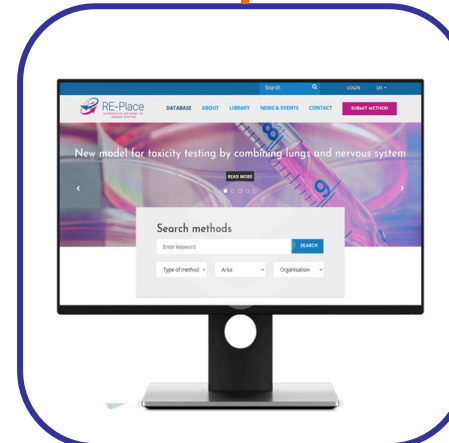
Development of
3R methodology



Promotion and
implementation of 3Rs in
research and education



PhD candidates
doing animal-free
research



RE-place
database

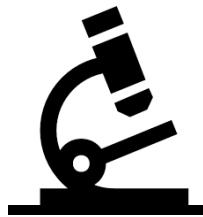


Outreach:
Social media,
symposia,...

Activities of IC-3Rs

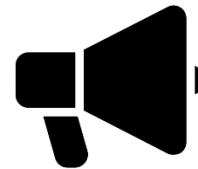


RESEARCH



- ❖ Participation in FWO projects
- ❖ Participation in EU projects: TwinAlt; PARC, COST, ...
- ❖ Innovate stem cell research, liver spheroids, thyroid function
- ❖ GENOMARK (at validation level)

INFORM & PROMOTE



- ❖ Francqui chair lectures
- ❖ RE-Place open access database, ...
- ❖ Annual Symposia & seminars
- ❖ Educational initiatives
- ❖ Social media

COLLABORATE



- ❖ Scientific community
- ❖ Authorities
- ❖ Animal welfare bodies
- ❖ Networking with other 3R Centra

Activities of IC-3Rs: RESEARCH

→ Opportunity for young scientists to perform innovative, animal-free research projects

Thyroid function

Liver diseases

Medical devices

Genotoxicity



Yoni



Joost*



Alessandra*



Quinten



Alexandra



Anouk



Lorna

Activities of IC-3Rs: RESEARCH

PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL EU PROJECTS



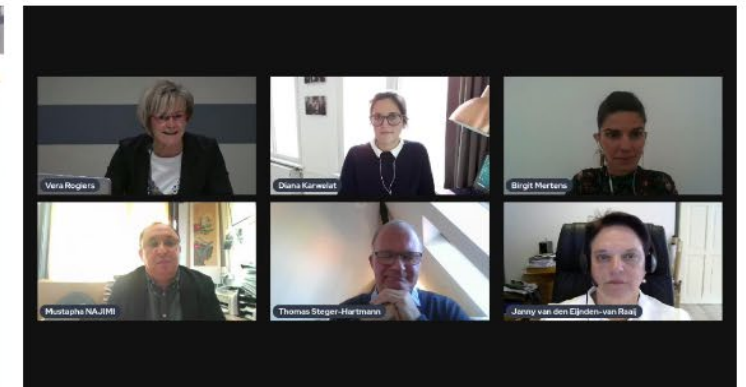
PARC

Activities of IC-3Rs: INFORM & PROMOTE

Annual Symposia on hot topics: also in Covid-times Online Symposium 2021

'Human relevant models for drug research & development'

→ 400 participants / 36 different countries



Topic:

'Non-clinical testing of human medicinal products: challenges and opportunities for regulatory acceptance of 3Rs'



Activities of IC-3Rs: INFORM & PROMOTE

→ Organising yearly IC-3Rs Symposium on hot topics
In person Symposium 2022

'More science, more care, less animals'



Focus on:

Ethical Committees for Experimental Animals (ECDs) of different Belgian Universities



Activities of IC-3Rs: INFORM & PROMOTE

→ Awards for young researchers (video contest, poster presentation, oral presentation)

Animal-free Disease Modelling - Julia Kapr
(University of Düsseldorf)



→ Organisation of hands-on WORKSHOPS on Refinement & Reduction



→ Coordination of the RE-Place database together with Sciensano



More information?

Listen to the next presentation

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

2017-2018 Francqui Chair lessons at the VUB, Faculty of Medicine & Pharmacy

'Reduction of animal testing in fundamental and applied research'



Maurice Whelan
EURL ECVAM



2017-2018 Francquilessons at UAntwerp by Vera Rogiers

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

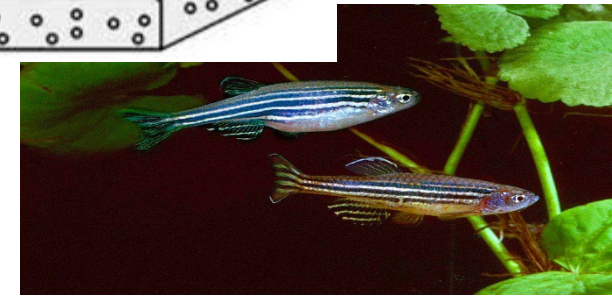
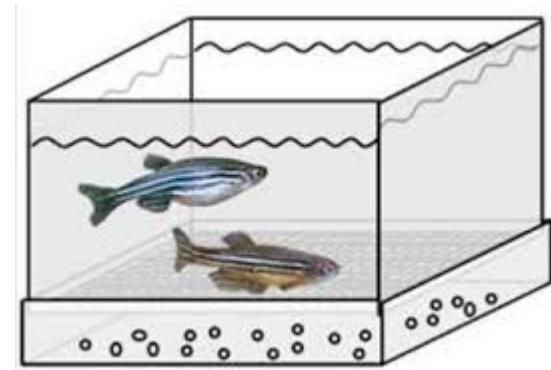
Since 2000

yearly organisation at VUB of International academic courses on animal-free NAMs for human health:
'Safety assessment of cosmetics in the EU'



New in 2024

International course at the VUB on animal-free environmental NAMs for cosmetic ingredients and their regulatory acceptance.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recently FWO made a video on the use of laboratory animals in research

- General public lacks knowledge on this topic
- Goal? dissemination of information on 3Rs to the general public
- Focus? teenagers 16-18 years old

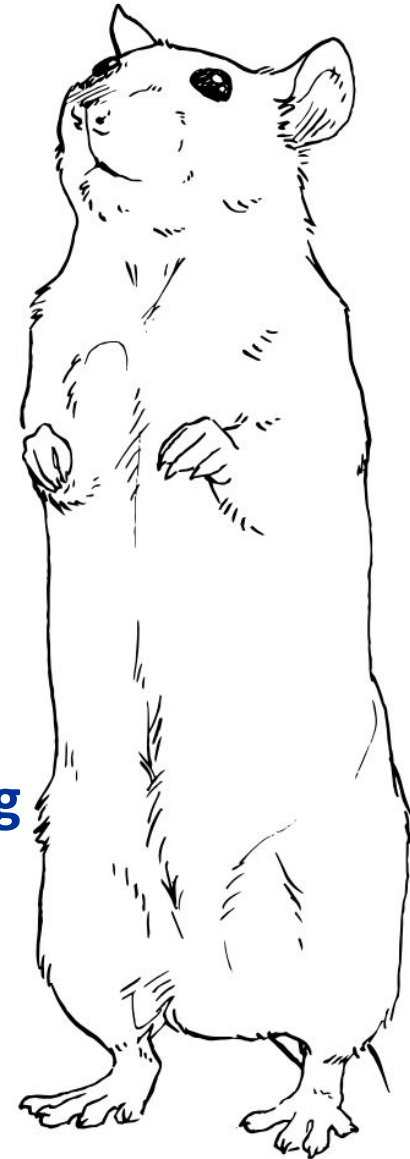


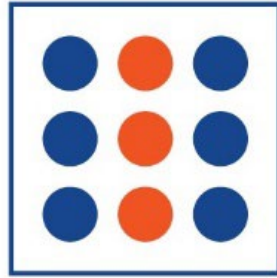
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Focus talks with teachers and professionals in the field
2. Creation of teaching material for science teachers:
 - Powerpoint-presentation with general background information on 3Rs
 - Animation video
 - Starting point of the course = debate with statements on animal testing

“ Critical thinking on the use of laboratory animals ”

3. Dissemination of the material





IC-3Rs
INNOVATION CENTRE
3R ALTERNATIVES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !!

QUESTIONS??