

# Guidelines for improving the quality and validity of animal research

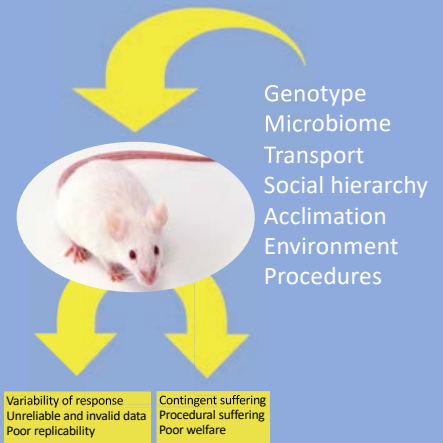
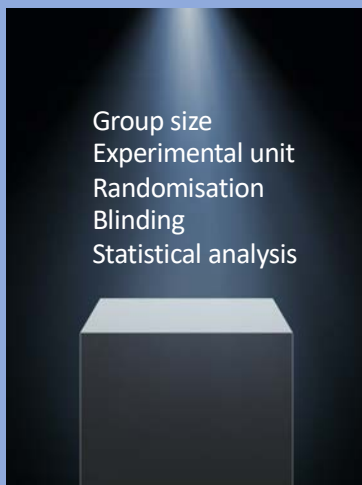
Adrian J Smith

[adrian.smith@norecopa.no](mailto:adrian.smith@norecopa.no)

c/o Norwegian Veterinary Institute, P.O. Box 750 Sentrum, 0106 Oslo, Norway

Concerns about the humanity and validity of animal experiments have been raised for decades. More recently, concerns about reproducibility and translatability have been expressed by scientists themselves.

Animal care staff have to attend to challenges which can dramatically affect the standard of animal research and testing. Some are animal-related issues, others are associated with the animal facility itself. Scientists may not be aware of these and their potential impact on their experiments.



Close dialogue between the animal facility and research team **from day one of planning** is therefore a win-win situation for all parties. This will be far more effective in improving the quality of animal research than sole focus on better *reporting* standards, even though these are also important.

New **guidelines** for the care and use of animals in research are being produced regularly. Efforts to promote a **culture of care** around animal use have also received much attention recently ([norecopa.no/CoC](http://norecopa.no/CoC))

Norecopa ([norecopa.no](http://norecopa.no)) collects and publishes information on resources from around the world which can assist in replacing, reducing and refining animal studies. In collaboration with British colleagues, we have published the **PREPARE** guidelines for planning animal experiments ([norecopa.no/PREPARE](http://norecopa.no/PREPARE)).

You can download this poster for free use:

[norecopa.no/Wellcome](http://norecopa.no/Wellcome)

We have produced a 3-minute cartoon film to illustrate the PREPARE guidelines, using the aviation industry as an analogy with its impressive ability to ensure quality and reproducibility, despite variable traffic conditions and the risk of human errors.

[norecopa.no/PREPARE/film](http://norecopa.no/PREPARE/film)

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