New tools for assessing the welfare of animals used in research

Lida Anestidou

Senior Program Officer and Director, OIE Collaborating Center for Laboratory Animal Science and Welfare
Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, US National Academy of Sciences.
Email: l.anestidou@me.com

Advances in biomedical research greatly depend on the scientifically and ethically appropriate use of animals as research subjects. National (most commonly) or multinational (EU) regulatory frameworks set the standards governing animal care, housing, and welfare. A number of approaches aim to improve animal welfare, including the use of a framework to determine the need to use certain animal species or animal models for research; expanded focus on the application of the 3Rs (refine, reduce and replace) with research-specific strategies; and behavioral modifications within the context of unalleviated pain. This presentation will expand on these concepts providing examples of new or updated methods to assess their impact on the welfare of laboratory animals.

Keywords: "3Rs" – laboratory animals – welfare assessment