

**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Transitioning to non-animal methods in science and regulation**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 29th June 2026

*****Taking Place Online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HEALTH FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Health Forum
- 9.05 **Scaling non-animal methods - innovation, workforce training and addressing adoption barriers**
Dr Anthony Holmes, Director, Science and Technology, NC3Rs
- 9.20 **Priorities for animal regulation, compliance and welfare protection in science during phased transition**
William Reynolds, Head, Animals in Science Regulation Unit, Home Office
- 9.35 **'Regulatory use of data from animals, from alternatives to animals and the MHRA's review of Module 4 in isolation'**
Dr James McBlane, Preclinical Assessor, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
- 9.50 **Next steps for policy and delivery in the transition to non-animal methods in science**
Dr Colin Wilson, Deputy Director, Research Infrastructure, Office for Life Sciences
- 10.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Irene Campbell MP
- 10.10 **Assessing the outlook for transitioning to non-animal methods and priorities for scientific discovery**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **Funding, infrastructure and access for NAMs**
preclinical translational models hub and other programmes aiming to accelerate alternative methods | scaling innovative NAM technologies | support for SMEs, academic labs and early career researchers | addressing disparities in access to validation infrastructure and specialist capability | training programmes and workforce upskilling | transition impact on specialist animal technologists | building effective cross-sector partnerships | addressing IP, data-sharing and commercial sensitivity issues that may affect validation and collaboration | potential tensions between open datasets and proprietary platforms
Dr Tomasz Kostrzewski, Chief Scientific Officer, CN Bio
Professor Amir Ghaemmaghami, Professor, Immunology and Immuno-bioengineering, University of Nottingham
Grace Ford, Innovation Lead for Medicines, Innovate UK
Dr Simon Calaminus, Senior Lecturer, Pharmacology, Hull York Medical School
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Irene Campbell MP
- 11.35 Break
- 11.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior parliamentarian
- 11.50 **International developments - drawing on lessons for the UK**
Kirk Leech, Executive Director, European Animal Research Association
- 12.00 **Research design, safety and system reform - evidence standards, capability and considerations for competitiveness in the UK life sciences sector**
integrating research design, validation and regulatory evidence requirements for wider NAM acceptance | safety, reproducibility and scientific robustness during transition | evidence assessment in decision-making | UK alignment with FDA Modernisation Act 2.0, OECD guidelines and wider international standards | reducing duplicative testing | ASPA licensing, evidence of no viable alternative and implications for inspectors, ethics committees and licence holders | support and incentives for universities and publishers to prioritise NAMs | implications for UK competitiveness and investment | stakeholder engagement, transparency and confidence in research design and evidence standards | workforce capability, NAM transition and career pathways | cross-government coordination, progress metrics and accountability for delivery | clarifying expectations for dual-running periods and realistic timelines
Dr Robin Lovell-Badge, Head, Developmental Genetics, The Francis Crick Institute
Dr Lorna Ewart, Chief Scientific Officer, Emulate Bio
Dr Julia Baines, Head, Science Policy, PETA
Dr Jayne Spink, Director, Translational Research, Prostate Cancer Research Centre
Dr Tamas Korcsmaros, Head, Imperial BRC Organoid Facility and Director, Centre for Intestinal Systems, Imperial College London
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Health Forum