
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The European Partnership for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA) is proud to announce its 2017 Refinement Prize. This prize of €6000 will be granted to a laboratory technician, animal caretaker or technologist who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in implementing and raising awareness of Refinement of animal testing.

PURPOSE

Laboratory technicians, technologists and animal caretakers carry out much of the work using animals for regulatory safety testing purposes and are thus closely involved in efforts to apply Refinement strategies in such studies. Refinement is one of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of testing on animals). Refinement refers to the modification of any procedure, husbandry and care practices with laboratory animals along their entire lifetime, so as to minimise pain and distress and enhance their well-being¹.

The purpose of this prize is to target those actually implementing alternative approaches to animal testing and raise awareness of their role for the day to day application of the Refinement principles in particular.

PRIZE

The EPAA partners will sponsor a 6000€ prize to be awarded in 2017. The prize can be claimed by an individual or shared equally amongst the members of a team. The money awarded is a prize, not a grant, therefore it does not require any prior justification of how it will be used. Nevertheless the EPAA recommends use linked to further promotion of alternatives (eg. for travel and accommodation fees for a conference, publication costs, etc.). The winner (or the winning team) will be invited to the EPAA Annual Conference in November 2017 to receive the prize and briefly describe his/her/their contribution to the 3Rs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Application is strictly restricted to those who:

- 1) Work in a laboratory or/and an animal facility as technician, technologist or animal caretaker
- 2) Contribute significantly to the development or wider implementation of a Refinement approach
- 3) Work in a European laboratory (EU Member States and neighbouring countries).²
- 4) Applicants from previous winning teams may be eligible provided they base their new application on a completely different case study.
- 5) Agree to make oneself available for the EPAA Annual Conference on November 22nd, 2017.

Please carefully note that any application not fulfilling any of the aforementioned eligibility criteria will not be considered.

¹ Definition of Refinement in for the purpose of this call as taken from:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/3r/alternative_en.htm

² Applicants from the following countries may apply: EU 28 Member States, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Monaco, Andorra, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Ukraine, Moldova and FYROM.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- a) Impact on animal welfare – evidence based
- b) Creativity and innovation
- c) Practicality, applicability and implementation potential to regulatory testing and/or quality control
- d) Potential for wider impact beyond immediate area
- e) Publication of data or potential for publication

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, eligible laboratory technicians/technologists/caretakers should send the following documents at grow-epaa@ec.europa.eu to EPAA before 12:00 CET on Friday 8th, September 2017:

- a cover letter (max. 500 words) explaining why the evaluation committee should consider the applicant's application;
- a brief CV listing laboratory work experience;
- a case study (max. 2500 words) describing the Refinement approach and describing how the applicant meets the above selection criteria. Include pictures, video or other evidence as appropriate.

A selection panel comprising representatives of the EPAA partners (European Commission and industry) as well as of the EPAA Mirror Group will evaluate the submissions and propose a short list to the EPAA Steering Committee. The decision of the EPAA Steering Committee will be communicated to the applicants by 10th November 2017. The decision is always final.

TIMELINES

Indicative timelines are as follows:

- 10th April 2017: Launch of the call for applications.
- 8th September 2017: Deadline for submissions of applications.
- 10th November 2017: Information of Applicants about the outcome
- 22nd November 2017: Winner to speak at the EPAA Annual Conference in Brussels.

