

## **Mouse handling made easy – Reducing anxiety in mice and their handlers**

*Jane Hurst (University of Liverpool)*

Our research has shown that picking up laboratory mice by the tail is strongly aversive, induces high anxiety in the animals and can significantly interfere with behavioural and physiological responses in experiments. This can be avoided by using one of the non-aversive handling methods that we have developed: either picking mice up in a tunnel or scooping them up on the open hand. I will cover the evidence base for these refined methods of handling mice, and give some tips for implementing these methods in animal facilities.