

3R funding of research activities 2014-2019 in Denmark by the Danish 3R centre

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The Danish 3R-Center promote the 3Rs by initiating research projects focusing on one or more of the 3Rs. Researchers affiliated to organizations, institutions or businesses in Denmark can apply. Applications will be evaluated from clear 3R perspectives, scientific quality and feasibility, The applicant has to declare which of the 3Rs are central to the project.

Every year 200.000 € is reserved for research funding of 3-4 projects.

In the period from the start of the 3R grant in 2014 to 2019 a total of 117 applications were submitted and 19 were supported financially. All supported projects which are succesfull, result in scientific publication in a peer reviewed journal indexed in Pub Med.

I searched in Pub Med for all applied projects on principal investigator and title and more than 10 projects from the first two years resulted in publication even without financing from the 3R centre. This could be seen as increased alertness to the 3Rs in the community resulting in financing from other sources than the 3R centre.

The applicants declared which of the 3Rs central to the projects. In total 55 out of 117 concerned replacement/reduction and the rest refinement/reduction. Projects with focus on refinement/reduction is increasingly being applied for during the 6 year period. Applications for support of replacement studies have to justify how many animals to be saved which is impossible for applications setting up new approaches not related to animal studies as such, but paving the way for new concepts as Adverse Outcome Pathways and in silico methods increasingly part of the modern biomedicine.

In my opinion, more reference to publications arising from the 3R grant in Denmark and the concept of Replacement may increase the discussions related to modern research including more attention to a variety of reserach approaches prior to use of animals.

<https://en.3rcenter.dk/research/>

Knudsen LE, Smith A, Törnqvist E, Forsby A, Tähti H. Nordic symposium on "toxicology and pharmacology without animal experiments-Will it be possible in the next 10 years?" Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol. 2019

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