

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

Dr Laura Boothman  
Academy of Medical Sciences  
10 Carlton House Terrace  
London SW1Y 5AH

Dear Dr Boothman

## **Animals containing human material – call for evidence**

I am writing in response to your call for evidence to inform the Academy of Medical Sciences' study on animals containing human material. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics has not considered the issues surrounding this particular area of science, but it has conducted an in-depth study on the ethics of research involving animals more generally.

Following a two-year inquiry, the Council published the report *The ethics of research involving animals* in May 2005. The report was produced by a Working Party comprised of academic and industry scientists, philosophers, members of animal protection groups, and a lawyer. Despite the range of ethical views that existed among members of the Working Party, the report includes a 'Consensus Statement' that identifies agreement on several important issues. For example, members agreed that, historically, animals have been used in many types of scientific research that have provided benefits to society. They also agreed that a world in which the important benefits of such research could be achieved without causing pain and suffering to animals must be the ultimate goal.

A summary of the report's findings is enclosed, and the full report can be downloaded at: [www.nuffieldbioethics.org/animalresearch](http://www.nuffieldbioethics.org/animalresearch)

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I hope that this is a helpful contribution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Whittall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and a trailing flourish.

Hugh Whittall  
**Director**