

## **STATEMENT ON ANIMAL RESEARCH**

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges places the highest importance on achieving the best clinical outcomes for patients. This can only be achieved through evidence-based practice based on high quality medical research. A variety of research methods and approaches are available but, despite advances in other techniques, it remains the case that in order for humans to benefit some medical research involves the use of animals.

We wish to encourage an informed debate about medical research ethics and the use of animals in research and consider that in conducting such research we should:

- Only use animals for research purposes when it is unavoidable
- Undertake research involving animals only where the potential benefits for human treatments can be clearly demonstrated
- Strive to ensure that studies are conducted to the highest standards (which include animal welfare standards) and comply with current legislation
- Support the need for all those involved in conducting such research to be appropriately trained and licensed
- Use systematic reviews wherever possible to support the validity of animal research