

September 10, 2019

Americans for Medical Progress Statement on EPA Plan to Reduce the Use of Animals in Chemical Safety Testing

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The following is a statement from the nonprofit advocacy group Americans for Medical Progress, which supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly-regulated research in animals. These comments come in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's plans to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of animals in chemical safety testing.

"Americans for Medical Progress advocates for the use of non-animal alternatives when possible. Therefore, we are supportive of the EPA's commitment to reduce the use of animals in chemical safety testing. At the same time, we share some of the significant concerns voiced by environmental health scientists. They have pointed out that alternative screening tools show impacts at the cellular and tissue levels, but that many serious chemical dangers can only be identified via the study of whole organisms. Because this is a health issue that affects all Americans, we urge the EPA to prioritize the public's safety far above any arbitrary deadlines. Alternatives should only be employed once they have been thoroughly proven safe and effective."

"When considering the overall impacts of the EPA's announcement, Americans should recognize that safety testing and biomedical health research are not one and the same. While there is a lot to learn about chemical risks, the biology of healthy living systems and the countless diseases that impact us are even more complex. Researchers obviously can't design a functional replacement for something they still do not fully understand. As a result, biomedical studies with animals will likely remain necessary in the development of new treatments and cures for many years to come."

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like Biomedical Research Awareness Day, news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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