

STRATEGIC APPROACH

Through our R&D activities, Sanofi aims to constantly innovate in multiple therapeutic areas while meeting the highest ethical standards. Built on a sound governance system overseen by the Sanofi Bioethics Committee, our strategic approach is designed so that our standards and practices are continuously challenged in response to existing and emerging ethical considerations. We embed this approach in our practices to ensure the responsible use of animals in research and production processes and support ethical conduct in clinical development involving patients and healthy subjects.

FOCUS ON EMERGING CHALLENGES AND STRONGER OVERSIGHT

The Sanofi Bioethics Committee

Created in 2012, the Sanofi Bioethics Committee (BEC) determines the Group's position on bioethics policies that guide the implementation of our R&D strategy. It supports the work of the Sanofi Risk Committee by alerting it to any potential bioethics risks that must be addressed as part of Group's corporate governance responsibility. Ultimately, the BEC is responsible for ensuring that respect for human dignity and human rights are upheld in all our R&D activities.

The Sanofi Group recognizes the importance of defining, respecting and continuously revisiting and improving consistent and transparent bioethical standards during all our research activities involving humans and animals. The Bioethics Committee plays two essential roles:

- It informs internal and external stakeholders about Sanofi's position on the ethical implications of biological research and applications by establishing a common definition and framework for bioethics at Sanofi, promoting a responsible bioethics culture within our R&D organization and increasing the visibility of our bioethics approach; and

- It helps anticipate ethical challenges that may arise at the interface between the life sciences, biotechnology, biodiversity, medicine, politics, law and culture, in particular due to advances in biology and medicine; it fulfills this role by ensuring that our R&D organization continually assesses and apprises emerging bioethics issues, discussing potential issues and findings with relevant stakeholders, working with them to devise mitigation plans, and supporting implementation and monitoring of such plans until issues are resolved.

THE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION

Research involving animals poses dilemmas not only for scientists who use animals in medical research, but also for society as a whole. The current consensus is that using animals for research is justified when there are clear benefits for human and animal health and when the 3Rs principles (replacement, reduction and refinement) are applied. Animals remain an integral part of a comprehensive research and testing strategy that includes non-animal methods (such as computerized models and *in vitro* testing) and clinical research and animal use is also part of many regulatory requirements. For example, testing vaccines before batch release remains mandatory worldwide for public health reasons and animals are required to ensure the safety and efficacy of commercialized vaccines.

Strongly committed to the 3Rs

For many years, Sanofi has sought to apply the 3Rs when using animals is necessary for our research. Our approach is designed to use animals only when a non-animal method is not suitable for the required use (replacement), in the smallest number necessary for quality science (reduction) and while implementing state-of-the-art practices to promote animal welfare and prevent pain and distress in housing, procedures and treatment (refinement).

When animals are required to help ensure the safety or quality of medicines or vaccines,

Facts and figures

REACHING CONSENSUS ON GUIDELINES FOR HUMAN CELLULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY

Sanofi was among the sponsors of the "Biotechnology and the Ethical Imagination Global Summit" held in May 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by Emory University's Center for Ethics, this gathering of thought leaders aimed to reach consensus on reasonable guidelines for cellular biotechnologies such as synthetic biology and stem cell research, as well as animal and human applications of advanced biotechnology.

MORE online

- [BEINGS2015 website](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The 3Rs stand for :

- **Replacing** animals with any other methods when a non-animal method is feasible
- **Reducing** the number of animals necessary to ensure reliable, quality scientific results
- **Refining** techniques to promote animal welfare and minimize pain and distress

99%

OF THE ANIMALS USED are rodents, rabbits and poultry

Less than

20%

OF THE ANIMALS are used for research

40%

OF THE ANIMALS are used by our Animal Health Division

MORE in our Download Center

- [Animal Protection factsheet](#)
- [Sanofi Policy on the Protection of Animals](#)