

More than 1,400 Swiss researchers are protesting against a ban of animal experiments without alternatives

The declaration of the association “Research for Life” was met with a great response in the research community in Switzerland. More than 1400 (bio)medical researchers, doctoral students, students and employees from Swiss universities, research centers and companies (pharmaceuticals / biotech) have already signed the declaration and further signatures are added all the time.

The current political initiatives and the slow but steady ban on animal experiments are undermining the Swiss Animal Welfare Act, one of the strictest in the world, even by organizations that were involved in its development. The voices calling for a binding plan to phase out all animal experiments in Switzerland are getting louder and louder. However, there are still no alternatives for many animal experiments and their areas of application. An exit plan without alternatives - as is currently being discussed - equals a ban and endangers future medical care for human and animal patients in Switzerland.

The research community protest against this, and demands that the requirements of the Swiss Animal Welfare Act are complied with, and that research that includes studies on animals is still possible on the basis of the current Animal Welfare Act in Switzerland. If adjustments to the law or corresponding ordinances are necessary, this should be discussed and decided with the involvement of the researchers and based on the current state of knowledge. The researchers call on the authorities, politicians and society to support their efforts to ensure the future of biomedical research and education in the life sciences in Switzerland.

“The latest political developments by the opponents of animal experimentation worry the researchers and endanger future medical care for human and animal patients,” says Prof. Michael Hottiger, veterinarian, researcher and president of “Research for Life”. “Our association will therefore continue to oppose a ban on animal experiments without alternatives with all its might, so that biomedical research, training of medical personnel and veterinarians, as well as the development of drugs and therapies for incurable diseases in Switzerland will remain possible in the future in compliance with the strict Swiss legislation”.

“Research for Life” is an association that gives Swiss bioscientists and medical researchers a voice and informs the Swiss public openly and transparently about scientific progress, genetic engineering, animal experiments and 3R methods. In exchange with researchers who use animals in their work, FfL is active in the public and political debate on this subject.

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