



European Animal  
Research Association

## EARA News Digest 2021 - Week 9

Welcome to your Monday morning update, [from EARA](#), on the latest developments in biomedical science, policy and openness in animal research in Europe and around the world.

See EARA's [Coronavirus updates](#)

### Policy



## French biomedical institutions commit to greater transparency

French universities, research centres and companies have signed a [transparency agreement](#), with a commitment to be more open about the use of animals in research.

Initiated by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and co-ordinated by GIRCOR, the [French Transparency Charter](#) has been signed by 30 biomedical institutions.

France becomes the fifth country to sign an agreement - matching similar initiatives, co-ordinated and supported by EARA, in Belgium, Portugal, Spain and the UK.

“EARA fully supports this important initiative by the French biomedical community, which is part of a growing movement in Europe to be more

open about animal research,” said EARA executive director Kirk Leech.

The four commitments are to include speaking clearly about why animals are used; communicating with the media on all aspects of animal testing and its alternatives; allowing more access for the public through open days and publishing an annual report on the impact of this transparency.

## Media

### US concerns grow on research monkey export ban



The *New York Times* [has highlighted](#) the growing fears of the US biomedical community as [China's export ban](#) on monkeys, vital for research and testing on Covid-19, enters its second year.

In the article, experts including Skip Bohm, the associate director and chief veterinary medical officer at the Tulane National Primate Research Center, Louisiana, discussed the future prospects of creating a strategic monkey reserve in the US.

Before the pandemic, China provided over 60 percent of the 33,818 primates, mostly cynomolgus macaques, imported into the United States in 2019 - about 600 to 800 of those animals have been subject to coronavirus research since the pandemic began.

Meanwhile, EARA featured in [an article](#) by *Research Professional News* on the topic, quoting the association's letter to the [EU](#)

[Commission](#) and to the World Trade Organization, calling for an end to the ban.

A spokesperson for the Chinese government Mission to the EU told the publication: "China would consider resuming export approval" after the "epidemic situation improves and export conditions are met."

## Media



### Q&A video on Instagram – Send your questions today

Two leading scientists from the Netherlands, pictured, will be answering questions about their animal research on the [EARA Instagram](#) page this Thursday.

The Q&A initiative, [#TransparencyThursday](#), allows the public the chance to find why it is necessary to use animals in biomedical research.

Judith Homberg, Professor of Translational Neuroscience, at [Radboud University Medical Center](#), an EARA member, uses animal models to understand the individual differences in behaviour associated with stress-related disorders.

Daniel van den Hove, Professor in Neuroepigenetics, at the EARA member [Maastricht University](#), performs animal experiments to study psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders.

Drop your questions [here](#), before 3pm CET today.

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