



European Animal
Research Association

EARA News Digest 2020 - Week 2

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](#)

Research



A game-changer for vaccine delivery?

Scientists at [Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, USA](#), have identified a new way to deliver a vaccine by inhaler rather than injection.

In a study [published in Med](#), researchers using mice and monkeys, developed an aerosol that uses small particles to deliver a vaccine and produce a protective antibody response.

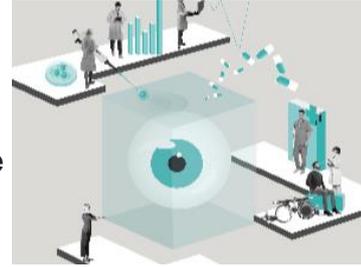
The team hopes that the inhaler method could be especially useful for vaccination against diseases of the lungs, [such as Covid-19](#), as it ensures the vaccine reaches the organ directly and much more quickly than injection, so the immune cells can start making an immune response straight away.

“This translational strategy potentially enables more effective delivery of therapeutics or vaccines while reducing the chance of toxic side effects,” said Dr Wadih Arap, co-senior author on the study.

Research

Device keeps donor eyes alive for use in research

An international team, co-ordinated by the Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain, is creating a device that keeps alive eyes from deceased donors for use in clinical research.



The device (ECaBox), is a transparent box that mimics conditions in the human eye, maintaining the eye's temperature and pH levels, while avoiding blood clots and removing metabolic waste and toxins.

Current technological limitations mean that eyes can only be kept at 4°C for a period of 48 hours before irreversible degradation.

The team believes the new method can replace animal testing and will also avoid the limitations of human organoids, by keeping the eyes healthy for at least one month. This will allow researchers time to assess the efficacy, efficiency, and safety of new regenerative therapies and drug testing.

Vision impairment affects over 250 million people worldwide, with thirty-six million people being blind.

The project has been awarded 3.5 million euros by the European Union's Future and Emerging Technologies Open research programme, which funds radical new technologies.

Research



Study confirms value of using monkeys in Covid-19 research

US researchers have confirmed the importance of using rhesus macaque monkeys as models in Covid-19 research.

The study, from [Texas Biomedical Research Institute](#) and [Southwest National Primate Research Centre](#) (SNPRC), compared the responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection in rhesus macaques, marmosets and baboons, to determine which model is most suitable to study disease.

The results, [published in Nature Microbiology](#), show the value of rhesus macaques in particular for [Covid-19 vaccine research](#).

Baboons can also provide more detailed information about the potential effects of Covid-19 on other diseases, such as diabetes.

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