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Oral Paper Abstract Conference

"Reimagining the Three Rs in the Era of One Health: A Qualitative Research on Early Career Science Researchers"

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The progress of science is needed for the health of humans and animals, environmental sustainability, and the well-being of society. Laboratory animals are crucial for scientific studies, contributing to educational and scientific advancements. Over the past decade, as the One Health concept has gained traction in policy, practice, and research, this holistic perspective has required a reevaluation of traditional research paradigms, including the application of the 3 Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement). Decisions on biomedical studies involving animals should be made by considering the welfare of the animals used, and they should be based on scientific knowledge and professional competence. This study aims to explore how the 3 Rs advocate for animal research and how the One Health approach applies to studies involving laboratory animals, while also investigating researchers' awareness and attitudes, particularly their recognition of animals as living and sentient beings. It investigates the values they invoke to justify research and experimentation on animals (*Values*) and examines their knowledge of alternative methods that could replace animal use (*Replacement*). Additionally, it seeks to understand the challenges they face in determining, calculating, and minimizing the number of animals in their studies (*Reduction*), as well as their perspectives on ensuring the welfare of animals housed in laboratory conditions (*Refinement*). The research further delves into their experiences with the ethical approval process, from project preparation to submission and evaluation by Ethics Committees (*Ethical Process*). Finally, it examines how researchers perceive the interconnections between human, animal, and environmental health, and how this perspective shapes their research practices (*One Health*). This qualitative study will employ in-depth, semi-structured interviews with early career science researchers, complemented by participant observations during laboratory work. The collected data will be systematically analyzed using qualitative analysis software. This study explores the awareness, opinions, and experiences of researchers regarding the 3 Rs & One Health. By critically examining harm-benefit analysis through ethical responsibility from an interdisciplinary perspective, this study aims to enhance practices in animal research and welfare by incorporating bioethical principles that uphold respect for biodiversity, the biosphere, and the concepts of One Health

Key Words: Ethics, Medicine, Animal Experimentation, One Health, Qualitative Research, Early Career Scientist