

MEDIA RELEASE
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FENS joins EARA to support the responsible use of animals in research

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) is actively committed to the responsible use of animals in research. On the 22nd of January 2015 FENS joined forces with the European Animal Research Association (EARA), a communication and advocacy organisation whose mission is to uphold the interests of basic and biomedical research and healthcare development across Europe, and to provide clear information to the public.

“Knowledge generated by neuroscience research using experimental animals, besides providing fundamental knowledge about brain function has also led to many important advances in the understanding and treatment of diseases that affect the nervous system, like the use of deep brain stimulation for treatment of Parkinson’s disease” states Monica Di Luca, FENS President.

Kirk Leech, EARA Executive Director, continues: “Animal studies provide opportunities for understanding mental and neurological illnesses that affect millions of European citizens, and to make an earlier diagnosis, and therefore earlier treatment, which would benefit millions of patients in Europe. We applaud the role model that FENS undertakes for biomedical progress with their decision of joining EARA”.

Neuroscience relies on non-animal and animal models to understand complex brain processes that would otherwise be impossible to decode. The decision to use an animal model, which species of animal to use and which procedures to employ, is only taken after balancing the likely scientific gains, particularly for human and animal welfare.

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To the Editors

FENS - The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) is the main organisation for neuroscience in Europe. FENS currently represents 42 European national and mono-disciplinary neuroscience societies with close to 23.000 member scientists from 32 European countries. FENS promotes neuroscience research to policymakers, funding bodies and the general public, both regionally and internationally. www.fens.org

EARA - The European Animal Research Association (EARA) is a communications and advocacy organisation whose mission is to uphold the interests of biomedical research and healthcare development across Europe. The creation of EARA was prompted by the recognition by the scientific community that Europe needs a public information platform where citizens and journalists can learn the facts and benefits of animal research. www.eara.eu