

## German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the Long Night of the Sciences: Animal experiments and alternatives

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What are artificial organ systems and how can they replace animal experiments? Why are animals still needed in research? How can work with laboratory animals be made more animal-friendly? In a series of presentations and at information booths, the German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and the Charité Medical School are giving a joint insight into the many facets of experimental research with animals while also showing alternative approaches. The German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R) at the BfR will be represented in *Auditorium 2 & Lichthof* at the Charité on 24 June 2017 from 5.00 pm. More information is available at: [http://lndw17.de/ps\\_25430.html](http://lndw17.de/ps_25430.html)

At the 17<sup>th</sup> Long Night of the Sciences, numerous scientific institutions from Berlin and Potsdam invite to visit laboratories, archives, libraries and auditoriums that are not otherwise open to the public. The spectrum of subjects dealt with at the events of all of the institutions is wide and covers research topics that are of great scientific, technological, medical, social, political, economic, historical and cultural significance. The BfR is participating in the event with presentations and info booths organised jointly with the Charité. The BfR is providing information on the tasks and goals of Bf3R and introducing future developments in the field of alternative methods research (presentations begin at 5:15 and 9:15 pm).

The goal of animal welfare is to be reached using the 3R principle: replace, reduce and refine. This principle aims at limiting the number of animal experiments, reducing the suffering of the animals to the absolutely necessary minimum level and at advancing the development of alternative methods. Interested visitors can conduct experiments on alternative methods using modern table microscopes and find out all about groundbreaking developments in this field. The BfR is also presenting the *AnimalTestInfo* database, which contains easily understandable summaries of projects involving animal experimentation which have been applied for by university scientific research institutes, industry and national government organisations and approved by the responsible authorities of the federal states.

<https://www.animaltestinfo.de/>

### About Bf3R

The BfR performs the tasks of the “German Centre for the Protection of Laboratory Animals (Bf3R)” and coordinates all activities nationwide with the goal of restricting animal experiments to the absolute minimum and guaranteeing test animals the best possible protection. In addition to this, the work conducted at the Centre is intended to stimulate global research activities and promote scientific dialogue.

### About the BfR

The Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. It advises the Federal Government and Federal Laender on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.