

3Rs SCIENCE AWARD

2012



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

(Deadline 30 June 2012)

In 2010, the EPAA granted its first Science Award. The EPAA is now offering the Science Award for the second time to support the optimization and regulatory acceptance of 3Rs alternative methods. The award provides young scientists with the opportunity to cooperate with experienced scientists from various industry sectors and the European Commission.

The recipient will be invited to participate in EPAA or international events to report on the project, like at the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences and EPAA Annual Conferences.

Financial support of up to €100000¹ will be provided to the institution of the successful candidate to allow the extension of an existing research contract for a period of up to one year in order to promote the transition from existing innovative alternative approach/method from the experimental stage towards regulatory acceptance and industrial application.

The focus of any proposal should be on practical steps to improve the acceptance and implementation of the 3Rs in the regulatory context, including one or more of the following but not limited to:

- Extension of the applicability domain of a 3Rs test method with known potential for industrial application and/or regulatory acceptance,
- Collation and analysis of datasets for the development of new risk assessment methodologies and approaches, support evaluation of ITS, etc. that will result in replaced, reduced and refined animal use,
- Participation in an optimisation or validation exercise of a recently developed 3Rs test method,
- Participation in an implementation and regulatory acceptance exercise of a test method with a known high 3Rs relevance,
- Addressing scientific/technical barriers to industrial application and regulatory acceptance of specific 3Rs techniques.

¹ Given that this is an award rather than a grant per se, it is anticipated that institutional overhead charges will not be applicable.

WHO CAN APPLY?

The award is intended for a scientist based in Europe with not more than 8 years post-graduate experience. Professional involvement in the 3Rs will be an asset in the application. Applications from academic, industrial, NGO or governmental backgrounds are welcome.

The candidate shall already be employed by an institution under an existing research contract.

The candidate and the current employing institution should submit a joint proposal of the research project with the potential to be conducted in collaboration with EPAA partners from industry and/or European Commission. Information on the EPAA partners can be found [here](#).

HOW TO APPLY?

The proposal should be written in English and include:

- 1) An abstract of no more than 500 words as a separate document, stating the aim and the scientific basis of the proposal
- 2) An extended description of no more than 2000 words addressing all evaluation criteria and containing:
 - The scientific background and references to relevant publications
 - The innovative aspect of the proposal and its impact in the field of research,
 - The results expected (overall aim and deliverables to be achieved)
 - Their regulatory and 3Rs relevance in areas covered by the EPAA
 - Type of collaboration sought or already established with the EPAA partner(s)
 - A comprehensive breakdown of expected costs.
- 3) Reference and coordinates of the institution the candidate is employed by.

Together with your proposal, please submit a signed cover letter with: your name, full contact details, curriculum vitae and list of publications (submitted, accepted and published). In addition, please indicate where you learned about the EPAA 3Rs Science Award.

SELECTION PROCESS

The research proposals will be evaluated by a scientific panel drawn from EPAA members (both industry and the European Commission) and from the EPAA Mirror Group. The final decision will be taken by the EPAA Steering Committee based on the recommendations of the scientific panel. Short-listed finalists will be invited to present their proposals in person to the panel in Brussels in summer 2012.

Decisions of the EPAA Steering Committee will be communicated to the applicants and are not subject to further exchange of views.

The selected candidate will be invited to write the detailed project work programme in collaboration with the hosting EPAA partner(s).

TIMELINE

Deadline for submission of applications is set on **30 June 2012**.

The recipient of the award will be announced in November 2012. The project should ideally start in agreement with the hosting company in the course of the year 2013.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Potential/expected impact on regulatory acceptance of the method/approach
2. Potential/expected impact on the 3Rs
3. Proximity to «market» (availability of protocol/Standard Operating Procedure, prevalidation, readiness to be applied for regulatory purposes)
4. Potential for collaboration with Industry (EPAA companies) and Commission (EURL-ECVAM or other bodies)
5. Innovativeness/Contribution to meeting an urgent unmet scientific need
6. Cross-sector industrial applicability
7. Potentially applicable to other methods and endpoints
8. Technical challenges (for transferability etc.)
9. Financial leverage (costs of new methods vs. current, lab's own investment)

WHERE TO APPLY

Should you wish to apply for the EPAA 3Rs Science Award, please submit your proposal by email to the EPAA Secretariat at entr-epaa@ec.europa.eu



The European Partnership
for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing