



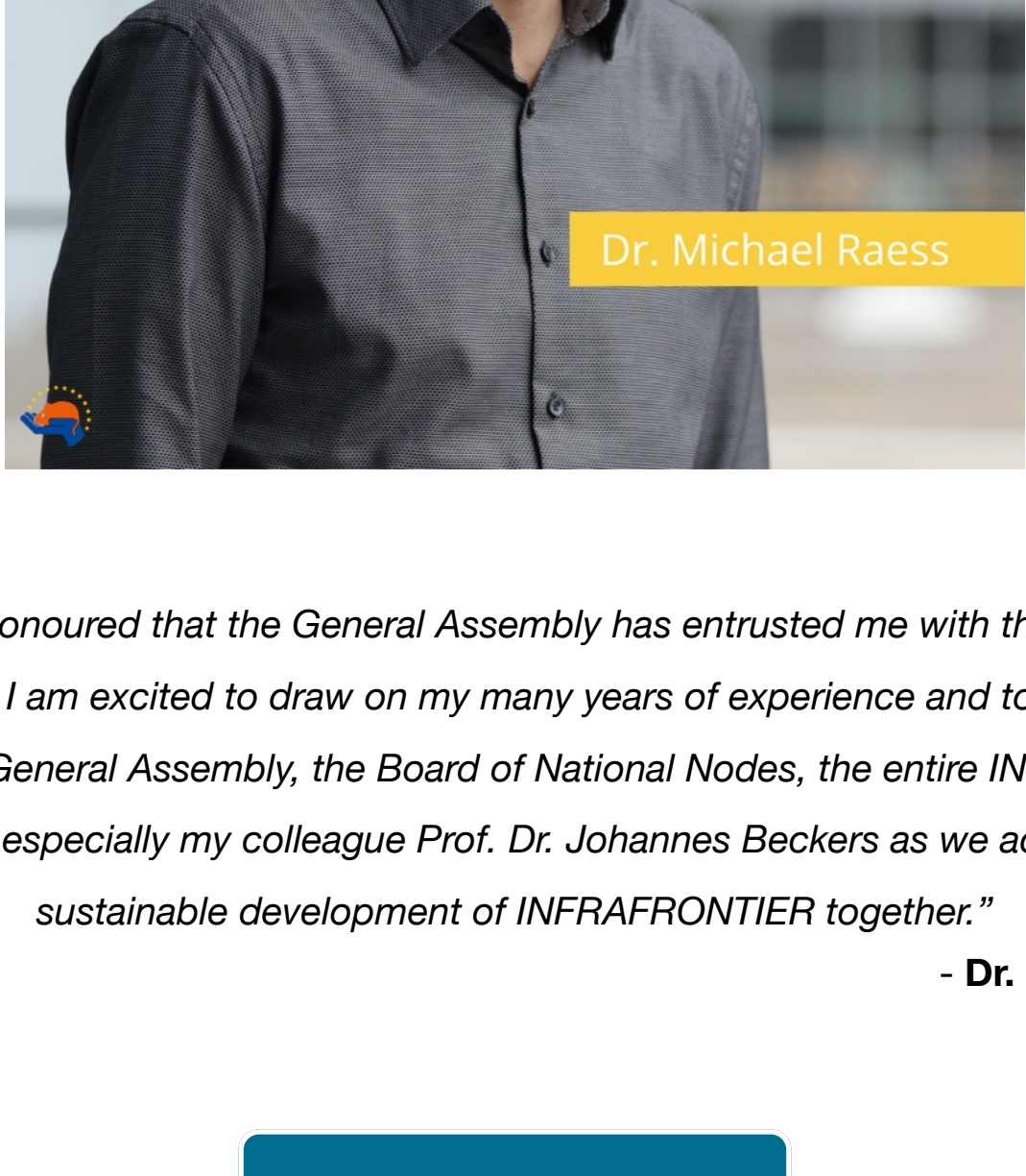
Welcome to a new issue of **INFRAFRONTIER News!** For the best experience, click above "view in browser". **Enjoy the read** 📖

Time: 6 minutes

Important Announcement

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Michael Raess as **INFRAFRONTIER ERIC's** new Administrative Managing Director, succeeding Daniela Sommer, who has successfully led the organisation over the past years.

As Dr. Raess steps into this new role, we look forward to building on the solid foundation laid over the past years and continuing our mission to enable cutting-edge biomedical research through appropriate human disease models.



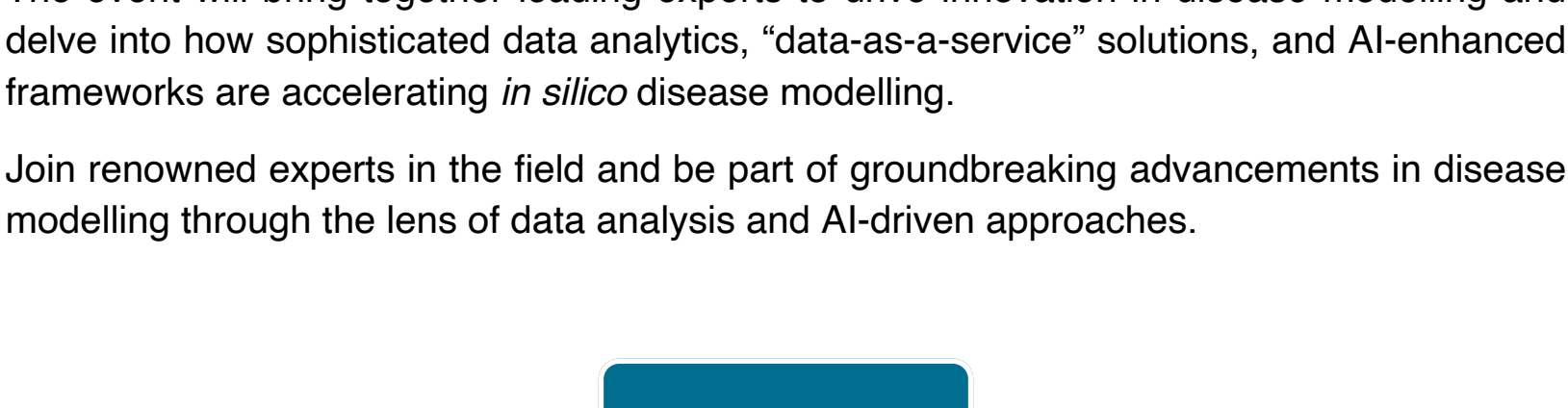
"I am truly honoured that the General Assembly has entrusted me with this important responsibility. I am excited to draw on my many years of experience and to work hand in hand with the General Assembly, the Board of National Nodes, the entire INFRAFRONTIER team, and especially my colleague Prof. Dr. Johannes Beckers as we advance the sustainable development of INFRAFRONTIER together."

- Dr. Michael Raess

[Read Full Story HERE](#)

Featured Event

📍 **23-24 June 2024 | Rome**



We are thrilled to announce that the next **INFRAFRONTIER Conference – Towards *in silico* models of human diseases** will take place in Rome on 23–24 June.

The event will bring together leading experts to drive innovation in disease modelling and delve into how sophisticated data analytics, "data-as-a-service" solutions, and AI-enhanced frameworks are accelerating *in silico* disease modelling.

Join renowned experts in the field and be part of groundbreaking advancements in disease modelling through the lens of data analysis and AI-driven approaches.

[Learn more!](#)

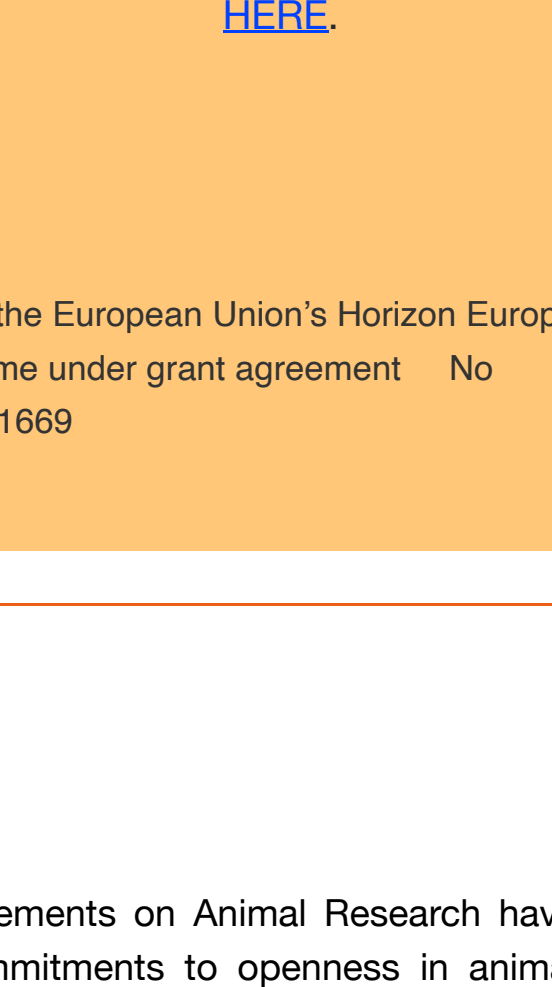
INFRAPLUS Project 🇪🇺+

INFRAPLUS Open Calls Attract Strong International Participation

We are excited to share that the first two INFRAPLUS open calls have successfully concluded, generating an impressive **90 service requests** from researchers across Europe and the United States.

The calls offered free access to advanced **Genetic Validation Services** as well as **Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts Isolation** and **Mouse Embryonic Stem Cell Derivation**, supporting high-quality mouse model and cell-based research.

The strong response highlights the international community's growing need for reliable genetic and cellular resources and marks an important milestone in the INFRAPLUS mission to expand access to cutting-edge research infrastructures under Horizon Europe.



[Read more about the calls HERE.](#)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101131669

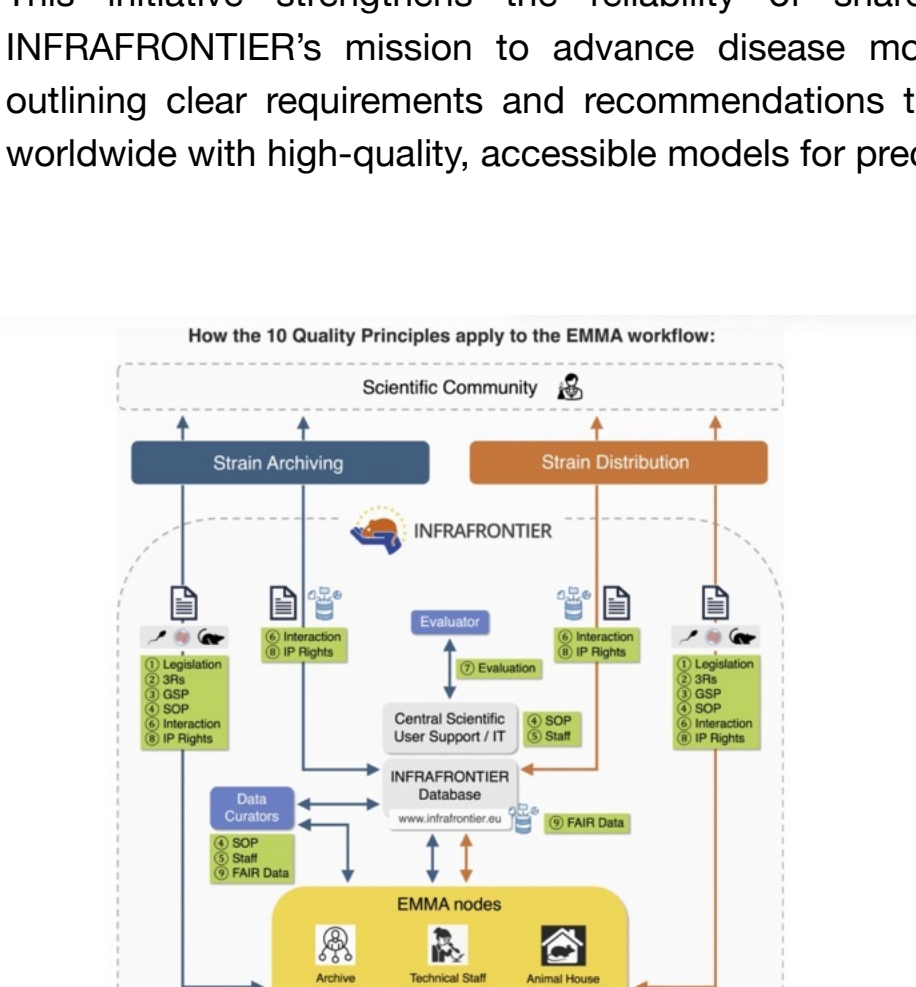
Highlights

Supporting Transparency Agreements in Europe

Over recent years, a number of national Transparency Agreements on Animal Research have been put in place across Europe, each outlining clear commitments to openness in animal research.

At INFRAFRONTIER, we are proud to see an increasing number of our partners committing to these agreements, demonstrating a shared dedication to openness, responsibility and public trust.

This collective effort to communicate clearly about when, how and why animals are used in research strengthens not only scientific integrity but also the relationship between research institutions and the communities they serve.



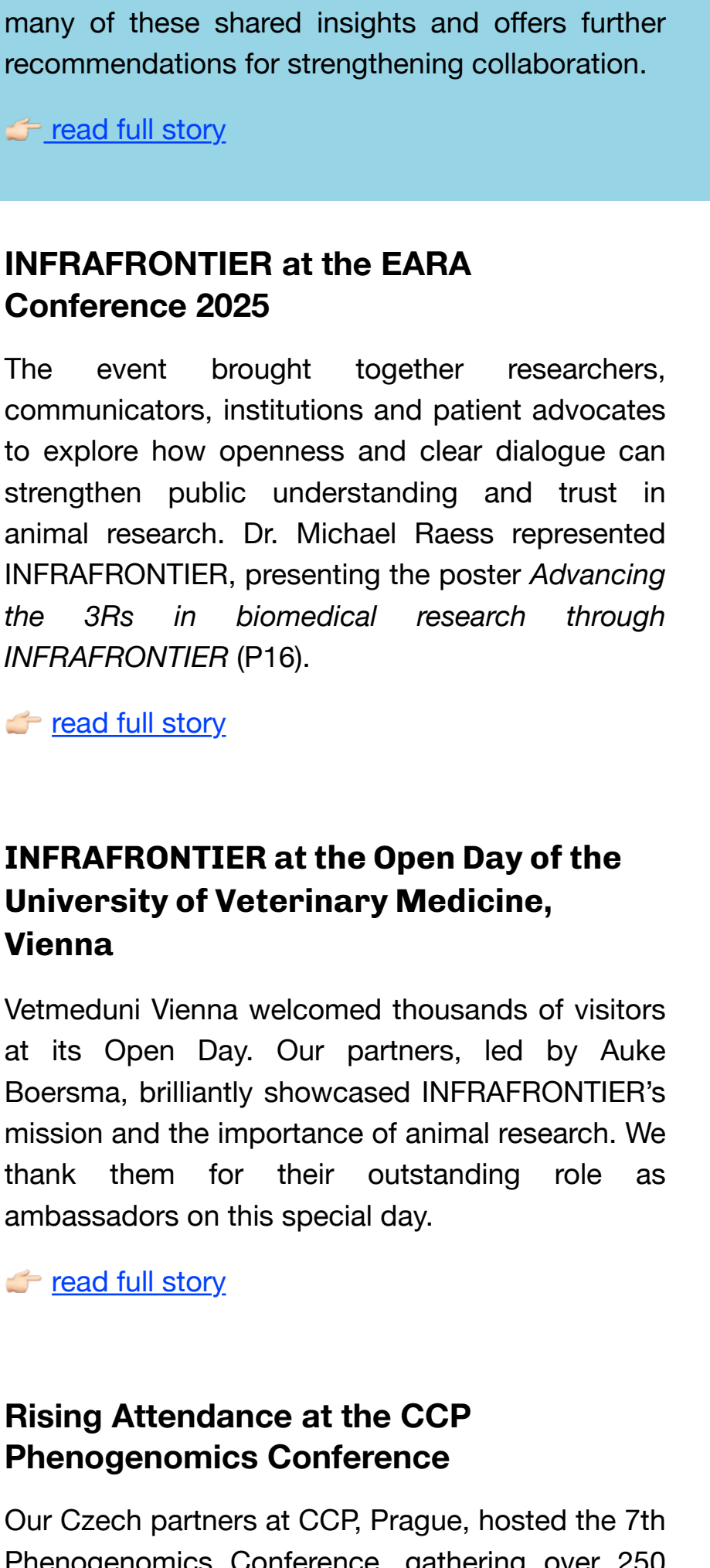
[Discover more!](#)

INFRAFRONTIER Quality Principles in EMMA Archiving and Distribution

The European Mouse Mutant Archive (EMMA) has published its quality framework designed to enhance the archiving and distribution of cryopreserved rodent disease models. This set of ten Quality Principles provides a structured foundation for ensuring the scientific and ethical integrity of rodent strains preserved within EMMA's distributed network.

The framework builds on EMMA's commitment to high reproducibility, robust metadata curation and adherence to the 3Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement), aligning cryopreservation workflows with international standards and community guidelines.

This initiative strengthens the reliability of shared biological resources and reinforces INFRAFRONTIER's mission to advance disease modelling and ethical animal research. By outlining clear requirements and recommendations the principles aim to support researchers worldwide with high-quality, accessible models for preclinical research.



[Read more!](#)

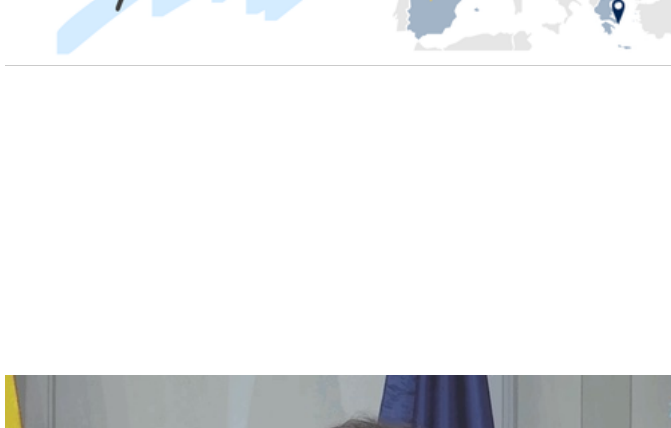
Flashback News

Our pick:

Australia and Europe Join Forces to Tackle Challenges in Health and Life Sciences

Through the Australia-Europe Health Research Infrastructure Symposium series, most recently hosted in Prato in September 2025, Australian and European research infrastructure leaders have been working together to establish deeper cooperation and joint programmes. A white paper released following the latest meeting captures many of these shared insights and offers further recommendations for strengthening collaboration.

[read full story](#)



INFRAFRONTIER at the EARA Conference 2025

The event brought together researchers, communicators, institutions and patient advocates to explore how openness and clear dialogue can strengthen public understanding and trust in animal research. Dr. Michael Raess represented INFRAFRONTIER, presenting the poster *Advancing the 3Rs in biomedical research through INFRAFRONTIER* (P16).

[read full story](#)



INFRAFRONTIER at the Open Day of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

Vetmeduni Vienna welcomed thousands of visitors at its Open Day. Our partners, led by Auke Boersma, brilliantly showcased INFRAFRONTIER's mission and the importance of animal research. We thank them for their outstanding role as ambassadors on this special day.

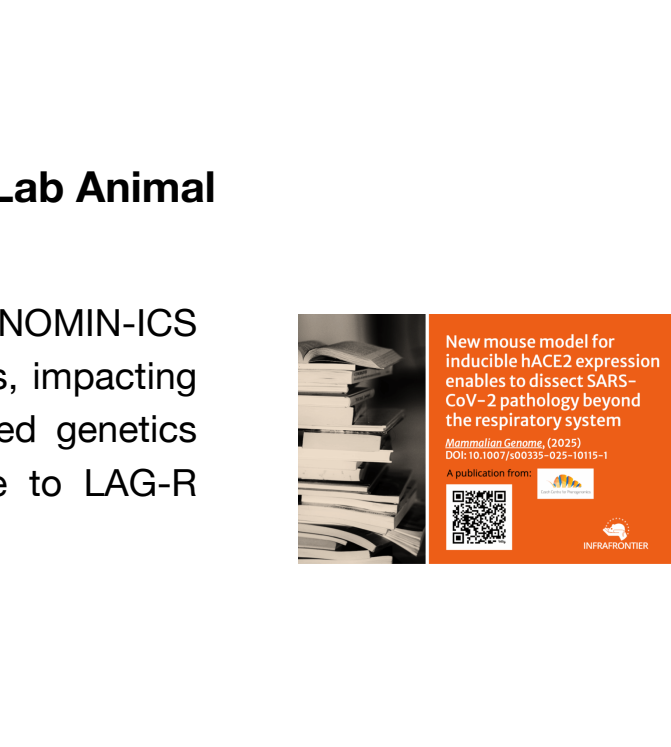
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Rising Attendance at the CCP Phenogenomics Conference

Our Czech partners at CCP, Prague, hosted the 7th Phenogenomics Conference, gathering over 250 experts, researchers, and clinicians. Sessions on gene therapy, rare disease modelling, and mouse models showcased advances in genetics and phenotyping, strengthening networks for future collaborative projects.

[read full story](#)



Spain Joins INFRAFRONTIER-ERIC as an Observer (Interview)

After nearly two decades of active collaboration, Spain officially joins INFRAFRONTIER-ERIC as an Observer. In this interview, Luis Montoliu (CNB-CSIC) and Johannes Beckers (Scientific Managing Director of INFRAFRONTIER) share their reflections on what this long-awaited milestone means for Spain, for the infrastructure, and for the future of biomedical research in Europe.

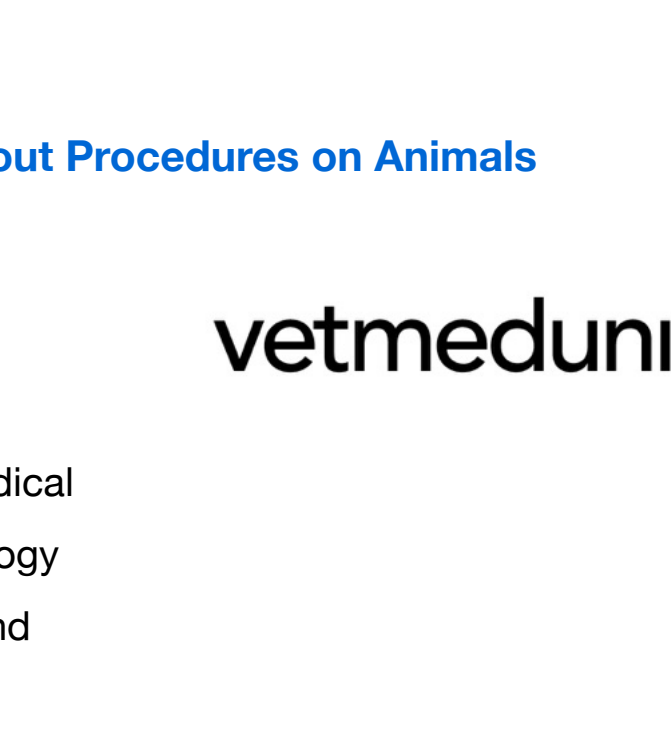
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Julia Fernández from CNB-CSIC Highlights INFRAFRONTIER's Contribution to Human Disease Research at ISCIII

Julia Fernández from CNB-CSIC showed INFRAFRONTIER's contribution to the research community at the ISCIII event! With 9,000 mouse strains, valuable services, and over 2,500 citations, INFRAFRONTIER is advancing disease research, promoting animal welfare, and driving the 3Rs for responsible science.

[read full story](#)



Breakthroughs From Our Partners

Better Understanding of Laboratory Animal Genetics Will Improve Reproducibility

The COST Action CA20135 TEATIME initiative unites European animal-research experts to advance 24/7 home-cage monitoring. This emerging field promises major gains for science and welfare, yet faces hurdles in data standards, infrastructure, and collaboration, prompting clear calls to action for all stakeholders involved.

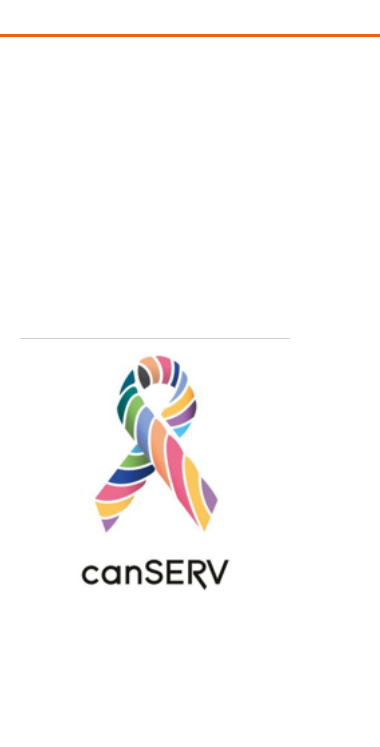
[read more](#)



Tecpr2 Mutation Impairs Endolysosomal Activity in Neurons and Microglia

A new *Cell Death & Disease* study unites whole-animal and molecular analyses to uncover how loss of *TECPR2* drives neurodegeneration in HSAN9. *Tecpr2* mutant mice reveal gait ataxia, kidney-specific damage and impaired cellular clearance, offering key insights into this fatal disorder.

[read more](#)



Community Call for Home Cage Monitoring of Lab Animal Behaviour

A PLoS Biology article from INFRAFRONTIER and PHENOMIN-ICS identifies gaps in genetic characterisation of lab animals, impacting reproducibility. The authors propose solutions: enhanced genetics training, better model characterisation, and adherence to LAG-R guidelines for accurate genetic reporting.

[read more](#)



Harmonising Mouse Anatomy Terminology: A Common Language?

The mouse remains the principal model for human disease, but anatomical terminology is inconsistent, outdated, or human-centric. Expert working groups are proposed to review literature and produce consensus-based terms aligned with the Nomina Anatomica Veterinaria to improve reliability and data integration.

[read more](#)



Role of WSB2 in a New Type of Neurodevelopmental Syndrome

Our partners at the German Mouse Clinic, together with clinicians and scientists, reveal that homozygous loss-of-function variants in *WSB2* cause a novel neurodevelopmental disorder in humans, supported by *Wsb2*-mutant mice. These findings highlight the crucial role of ubiquitination in brain development.

[read more](#)

Events & Training Opportunities

📍 Trainings

08-09 Feb 2026

EU Function A: Carrying out Procedures on Animals

• **Audience:** Animal caretakers and veterinary assistants, medical laboratory scientists, biology laboratory technicians, and students

• **University of Veterinary Medicine Campus, Vienna**

• [\[more info\]](#)

Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell

09 Feb 2026

Mouse Necropsy

• **Target:** Senior animal technicians, researchers, and PhD students

• **Harwell, UK**

• [\[more info\]](#)

Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell

18 Feb 2026

Laboratory Skills for Animal Technicians

• **Target:** Senior animal technicians, researchers, and PhD students

• **Harwell, UK**

• [\[more info\]](#)

Mary Lyon Centre at MRC Harwell

[Check out all Training Opportunities](#)

Current European Collaborations

[Learn more HERE](#)

Thanks for making it to the end! 📖

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INFRAFRONTIER
modelling human diseases

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