



## FDA-NIH Workshop: Reducing Animal Testing Comments

The Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the recent workshop hosted by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) on efforts to reduce the use of animal models in research. FABBS represents 32 scientific societies that come together to advance the rigor and impact of these disciplines.

FABBS encourages the FDA and NIH to consider the wide range of biomedical and behavioral research and methods currently being conducted with animal models and to balance the scientific necessity and nature of animal research with goals of prioritizing New Alternative Methods (NAMs).

Many fields of behavioral science rely on animal models to study complex, whole-organism processes as they develop over time. Animal models can capture the intricate interactions among multiple systems—such as the cardiovascular, endocrine, immune, and nervous systems—that are fundamental for understanding behavior and health.

Although NAMs and computational approaches offer exciting opportunities to explore specific biological mechanisms, they have yet to fully model the development and progression of behavioral conditions. In these cases, when no comparable alternative exists for critical research, FABBS supports the continued use of animal models, while preserving the ethical and well-regulated use of animal models.

The use of animal models in behavioral and brain research has led to groundbreaking research discoveries. Interrupting these research portfolios risks derailing progress across critical topics such as Alzheimer's disease, autism, and depression.

Please contact Juliane Baron at [jbaron@fabbs.org](mailto:jbaron@fabbs.org) with any questions. FABBS would be grateful for the opportunity to provide additional information.