

The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC)

THREE Rs AWARD

Terms of Reference

Preamble:

Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (or the “Three Rs”) are the cornerstone for ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching. This Award celebrates achievements in the implementation of the Three Rs and promotes the concept within the scientific community and to the wider public. The award is co-ordinated by NAEAC and is made to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand that shows great commitment to the principles of the Three Rs. Receipt of the Award will be publicised in selected media, although specific details of the work involved can be restricted if appropriate.

Purpose of the Award:

To reward and promote implementation of Three Rs principles in research, testing and teaching.

Application criteria:

The applicant’s work should meet one or more of the following criteria, against which they will be judged:

- demonstrates great commitment to Three Rs principles;
- demonstrates innovative implementation of Three Rs principles;
- will help to promote awareness of Three Rs principles in research, commercial practice, or teaching.

Rules of the Award:

- Applications will be accepted from individuals, groups, or organisations.
- Nominations will also be accepted for individuals, groups, or organisations, provided the nominee is consulted and consents to the nomination.
- The application deadline should be no less than two months in advance of the anticipated Award presentation.
- Announcement of results should be no less than one month prior to the anticipated presentation, to allow the winner time to prepare for attendance.
- Past winners of the Award are ineligible to contest the award for a period of three years after winning.

Nomination/Application process:

There is no specific application form for the Three Rs Award, however each application or nomination should include:

- evidence of how the applicant or nominated individual, group or institution meets one or more of the Award criteria listed above (maximum of three pages).
- curriculum vitae of the key applicant(s) or nominee(s).
- the names and contact details of up to two potential referees, at least one of whom must be external to the host organisation.

Judging panel and assessment process:

- The judging panel will be comprised of not less than three NAEAC members with appropriate expertise, one of whom will act as chair.
- Other individuals may be seconded to the panel, for example, to provide specific expertise or as a courtesy to major sponsors.

- Members of the panel will be selected to avoid potential conflicts of interest, or if this is not possible, conflicts must be identified and managed appropriately (where a conflict occurs, the committee member must not be involved in ranking of the respective applications).
- All members of the panel will read and rank the applications. The rankings will be discussed by teleconference or email, and a final ranking reached by consensus.
- The ranked list will be provided to the NAEAC secretariat for ratification by NAEAC. The results will be communicated to all applicants, and the NAEAC secretariat will then arrange for award of the prize and publicity as appropriate.

Prizes:

- The prize will consist of a certificate and a financial award, to be presented at an appropriate venue such as ANZCCART Conference or Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ) Research Honours Dinner. The winner's registration, travel and accommodation costs for attending the presentation function will also be included as part of the prize.
- Ideally the Award will be sponsored by one or two major, appropriate sponsors each year.
- If necessary, funding from several minor sponsors may need to be sought to ensure continuity of funding from year to year.

Other:

- Applications and nominations will be sought by widely publicising the Award deadline via *Welfare Pulse*, NAEAC mailing lists and publication of notices in NZBio, RSNZ, HRC and other relevant newsletters/email updates, as well as personal and institutional networks of NAEAC members.
- Media releases by MAF Communications (and sponsors or other interested organisations) should be in consultation with the winner and their host organisation, and should be treated sensitively.
- Media releases should acknowledge major sponsors, unless the sponsors request otherwise.