



**The National Animal Ethics
Advisory Committee**



Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield 3Rs Award

2026 Terms of Reference

Preamble

The principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (or the “3Rs”) are a cornerstone of the ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield 3Rs Award celebrates achievement in the development and/or implementation of the 3Rs.

John Schofield was a veterinarian with huge national and international recognition whose work focused on the welfare of animals used in research and teaching. He contributed extensively to develop new ways to advance the 3Rs, implement them in his work, and support others to do so. This award was created to recognise similar achievements by others in this important area of research, testing, and teaching. A history of the award and its precursor can be found [here](#).

The biennial award is jointly offered by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) and the New Zealand board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART(NZ)).

The award will be made to an individual, group or organisation working within New Zealand demonstrating great commitment to developing or implementing one or more of the 3Rs principles. Applications are not limited to animal-based research and teaching. Applications relating to areas such as law, policy and administration, or conceptual work that advances the 3Rs are also welcome.

Purpose of the award

To reward and promote the implementation or development of methods, techniques, and/or technologies that advance 3Rs principles in RTT.

Promotion of award

Applications and nominations will be sought by publicising the award and deadline in the following locations:

- NAEAC and ANZCCART newsletters
- NAEAC and ANZCCART (NZ) websites
- Via email to NAEAC and ANZCCART stakeholders

Application criteria

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

- Demonstrates great commitment to one or more of the 3Rs principles.
- Demonstrates innovative and excellent implementation or development of one or more of the 3Rs principles.
- Actively promotes awareness or understanding of one or more 3Rs principles in RTT.

Rules of the award

- Applications will be accepted from individuals, groups, or organisations within New Zealand.
- Nominations will also be accepted for individuals, groups, or organisations within New Zealand, provided the nominee is consulted and consents to being nominated and is involved in the writing of the application.
- Previous winners of the award may apply and are eligible to win the award more than once, provided that the project is substantively different from that in the previously successful application. Applications that are continuations of the original project will be considered so long as they demonstrate recent progression and advancement of the project.
- Announcement of the application deadline and publication of application forms will allow a *minimum* of three months to prepare an application.
- At the discretion of the judging panel, co-awarding of the award to more than one applicant with a shared award prize may be considered.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.
- Announcement of results will be prior to the anticipated presentation function, to allow the winner time to prepare.
- The award prize must be paid to the applicants host organisation/facility except where permission from both NAEAC and ANZCCART are provided.
- The award prize must be used for the purpose(s) as outlined in the application.
- The award prize must be used within 2 years of receiving the award, after which a report on the use of the award prize must be provided to NAEAC and ANZCCART.
- External publicity of receipt of an award and presentation of the work outlined in the application to NAEAC and ANZCCART are conditions of entry and must be agreed to by the awardee and, if appropriate, their employer.

Application/Nomination process

- Applicants must use the application form for the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield 3Rs Award, which can be downloaded from the NAEAC and ANZCCART websites or requested from ANZCCART at anzccart@royalsociety.org.nz and NAEAC at naeac@mpi.govt.nz

Judging panel and assessment process

- The judging panel will comprise two NAEAC members and two ANZCCART members.
- Members of the panel will have appropriate expertise and will elect one member as Chair.
- Diversity among panel members will be sought.
- Other individuals may be seconded to the panel; for example, to provide specific expertise.
- Conflict of interest among nominees and panel must be disclosed and avoided or managed, as appropriate.
- All members of the panel will read and rank the applications; individual rankings will be discussed, and a final ranking reached by consensus. All assessment and deliberation will manage any conflict as appropriate.
- The ranked list will be provided to the NAEAC and ANZCCART Secretariats for ratification by both committees.
- The outcome will be communicated to all applicants.

Prizes

- The prize will consist of a certificate jointly designed by NAEAC and ANZCCART and a \$10,000 award, to be presented at a suitable venue and time.
- At the discretion of the judging panel special commendations may be awarded. Applicants with special commendations may also be invited to present at the award function.
- If necessary, funding from other sponsors will be sought to ensure continuity of funding for each award cycle.

Publicity of award

- After a winner has been chosen and notified, advertising will be undertaken by NAEAC and ANZCCART in consultation with the winner and their host organisation.
- The winner will be announced in the NAEAC and ANZCCART newsletters and on the NAEAC and ANZCCART websites.
- All communications regarding the award will acknowledge both NAEAC and ANZCCART as co-sponsors of the award.
- After the winner has been publicly announced via the above channels, NAEAC and ANZCCART will arrange for the formal awarding and presentation of the prize with the recipient.