



The American Physiological Society

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To the Pro-Test Italia Rally:

The American Physiological Society commends Italian scientists for drawing attention to the unjustified restrictions that recent legislation would impose on life-saving research.

In its rush to approve legislation implementing the EU's 2010 Directive on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU), the Italian Parliament added amendments that go far beyond the parameters established for the uniform protection of research animals in EU member states. If not corrected, this could halt important research by Italian scientists seeking to relieve human and animal suffering by understanding the causes of disease and developing new treatments and cures.

The American Physiological Society's position statement on the value of animal research states, in part:

"Humane research involving animals provides unique insights into biological structure and function. These insights offer major benefits to both human and animal health. The American Physiological Society is strongly committed to ensuring that research animals are treated humanely and that their use is regulated appropriately."

These amendments do not represent appropriate regulation. Unless the Italian government takes forceful action, Italian science may be unable to make significant advances. We urge the Italian government to exercise its responsibility to the Italian public in keeping with the rules of the European Union (EU) and to reject these inappropriate restrictions.