



Andrew Blake Tribute Award

Introduction

The Andrew Blake Tribute Award commemorates the work and life of Andrew Blake, who in 1990 founded the charity Seriously Ill for Medical Research. Andrew suffered from Friedrich's ataxia, a hereditary condition described as one of the "worst of neurological diseases". Andrew died in May 2002 aged 39. Andrew was passionate about the need to support scientists in their work and his commitment to speaking out against animal rights activists took up much of the last ten years of his life. He died shortly before he was to collect his MBE.

In recognition of Andrew's commitment to animal welfare: The Andrew Blake Tribute Award is presented by the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) and sponsored by the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) to an animal technician/technologist judged to have made a significant contribution to improving laboratory animal welfare. The IAT is the professional association, which represents animal technologists in the UK. It is the foremost professional body of its kind in the world and by its activities continues to advance and promote excellence in technology and the practice of laboratory animal care and welfare.

The IAT is responsible for ensuring Animal Technologists, and others professionally engaged in the field of animal science within the United Kingdom, receive appropriate training and qualifications, thus ensuring that they lead the biomedical research sector in advancing standards of laboratory animal welfare at home and abroad.

The NC3Rs works to pioneer better science through advancing the 3Rs in research.

The NC3Rs mission is to:

- Support the discovery and adoption of predictive, reproducible and cost-effective alternatives to the use of animals.
- Improve standards where animal use is necessary, optimising model selection and study design and minimising suffering as far as possible.
- Promote the importance of the 3Rs across the scientific community, nationally and internationally, by providing training and embedding the 3Rs in policy, practice and regulations.

[NC3Rs](#)



Details of Award

The Andrew Blake Tribute Award is awarded annually, where sponsorship allows, to the Animal Technologist judged to have made the **most significant contribution to improving standards in laboratory animal welfare over the previous twelve months.**

All qualified Animal Technologists are guided in their work by the IAT's Ethical Statement:

“In the conduct of their professional duties Animal Technologists have a moral and legal obligation, at all times, to promote and safeguard the welfare of animals in their care, and to recognise that good laboratory animal care welfare is an essential component of good laboratory animal technology and care.”

The award is made to acknowledge the professional and personal commitment of Animal Technologists to improving standards in all aspects of laboratory animal care and welfare.

Qualifications for entry

Entries are invited from all qualified Animal Technicians and Technologists working in the UK. The closing date for entries is usually around October or November but it can vary depending on the date of the annual Congress. Judging is usually concluded soon after the closing date.

Submission

The topic of work that you describe in your application may be undertaken as part of a project and presented as a poster.

The submission which should contain the content below should be submitted online via the following link: <https://www.iat.org.uk/abta>

Why did you undertake this work? (What was the potential problem you were trying to improve.)

- How did you undertake it? (Species, numbers, sex, materials used.)
- Describe the project in a comprehensive and concise manner that allows a complete understanding of what was done and how, ideally using the principles set out in the ARRIVE guidelines (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines>)
- Explain how the work contributes to one of the 3Rs.
- Evaluate and explain how the welfare of the animals improved was. If your project was on environmental enrichment you may wish to consult [Evaluating environmental enrichment | NC3Rs](#).
- Describe the results you obtained including data generated with assessment
- Were there any statistical analyses of the data undertaken? Please provide this information.
- Acknowledgements and references.



- Brief CV to include your overall contribution to the work.
- Please list your supervisors or PPL holder if applicable for the work.

Judging Criteria

- Advancement in animal welfare 40%
- Robustness of study 25%
- Overall significance 20%
- Novelty 10%
- Clarity of presentation of the work 5%

Judging

- Entries are submitted to a judging panel consisting of one member of IAT Council, one representative from the NC3Rs and three other independent people one to be in current employment within the life sciences sector.
- All judges will have a expertise in the area of laboratory animal research and welfare and will hold relevant academic qualifications.
- The criteria for judging the award are flexible, but the innovation or improvement, which is the subject of the entry, will have achieved a measurable advance in one or more aspect of laboratory animal care; it will be consistent with the aims and objectives of the 3Rs - Replacement, Refinement and Reduction
- It will also be consistent with the IAT's responsibility to advance and promote excellence in both technology, and the practice, of laboratory animal care and welfare.
- The winner is chosen by a majority vote.
- The successful entrant will have a record of achieving high professional and scientific standards. They will have demonstrated a very significant professional and personal commitment to laboratory animal welfare.

Prize

- The award is presented to the winner at IAT Congress in March or April, following the closing date.
- The winner receives a cash prize of £250, an engraved glass award and will be invited to attend Congress and to make a platform presentation on their winning entry.
- The winning entry will be reported in IAT 'Bulletin', the appropriate IAT Congress Handbook, and on the IAT website. It may be published in the IAT Journal 'Animal Technology and Welfare' and on the NC3Rs website and dedicated technicians newsletter (Tech3Rs).