



Chamber of universities

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Swiss Transparency Agreement on Animal Research - STAAR

Consideration

Animal experimentation is a sensitive topic that continues to trigger debates in the public and political spheres. The risk of emotional aspects taking over in such debates is particularly high in a context of lack of knowledge. Exchanges with the public, openness and pro-active communication are key elements that contribute to building and sustaining public trust in animal research. The institutions active in the field are aware of this issue and have initiated a cultural change towards more transparency in the past few years. The efforts undertaken so far must now be consolidated and further pursued.

A concept for a national platform STAAR under the umbrella of swissuniversities has been elaborated with the aim of **improving communication and transparency** regarding the use of animals in research. STAAR intends to anchor communication on animal experimentation in current practices of institutions and to enhance and extend the existing coordination and networking at the national level.

STAAR Letter of Intent

Every Swiss organisation (public or private) conducting, funding or supporting research involving animals is invited to become a signatory of STAAR. By joining STAAR, organisations commit to openness and dialogue with the public in the field of animal research by means of the following measures:

- Each STAAR signatory names a representative for the general assembly and contributes to the realisation of the objectives of STAAR by providing in-kind contributions in the form of working hours of their employees (providing information, participating in meetings, etc.).
- Each STAAR signatory commits to the four main commitments and annual objectives of STAAR.
- Each STAAR signatory annually reports on its progress regarding transparency in animal experimentation.

The four commitments (transparency, enhanced communication, pro-active information and reporting) represent the key objectives that the signatories commit to achieve and develop and are similar to those found in other national transparency agreements in Europe ([LINK](#)). The annual objectives (STAAR standards), are defined each year. These objectives constitute

the concrete actions that the signatories commit to implement when joining STAAR. They are foreseen to develop over time.

Detailed information is available in the STAAR mandate and its appendices.

Declaration of intent

Our undersigned institution declares its intention to commit to STAAR.

Details of the signatory organisation:

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Institution

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Head of the institution

Function

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E-mail address

Phone number

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Designated representative for STAAR¹

Function

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E-mail address

Phone number

Signatures:

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Date

Date

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Head of the institution

Designated representative for STAAR

¹ According to the STAAR mandate, each signatory to STAAR names a representative of senior management with executive power (e.g. vice rector of research) and with knowledge of the domain of research involving animals. The appointed representative sits in the plenary assembly.