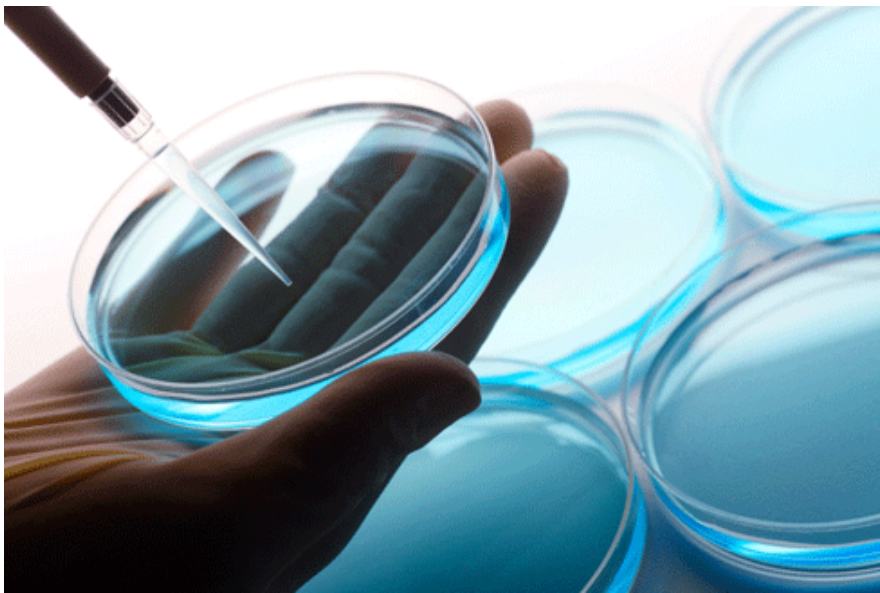


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Progress in life-saving scientific research

A novel method of studying cerebral malaria that avoids the use of animal testing – a longstanding ethical issue for scientists – has been recognised by a new award at the University of Sydney.



Credit: istockphoto

The university's Professor Georges Grau developed an in vitro model that replaces the customary method of inoculating mice with a rodent-specific malaria parasite.

His system, now taken up by researchers in the United States and Europe, has been adapted to the study of other diseases of the brain such as viral encephalitis, tumour metastasis, multiple sclerosis and cryptococcal meningitis.

Professor Grau's work has been recognised with the university's inaugural Award for the Reduction of Use of Animals in Research.

The founder of the award, Dr Malcolm France, the university's Director of Laboratory Animal Services, says significant progress is being made in areas that '... don't rely on animals but instead use methods such as epidemiology, human clinical trials, imaging techniques, computer modelling and so on – all of which are well-established disciplines at this university as well as other institutions'.

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