

## Tackling the replication crisis in neuroscience

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The European Quality in Preclinical Data (EQIPD) consortium has announced the official finalization of the EQIPD Innovative Medicines



## Initiative (IMI) project.

Over the course of four years the <u>consortium</u> has developed a state-of-the-art, lean and fit-for-purpose quality system to facilitate adherence to rigorous, evidence-based research practices in academic and industrial non-regulated non-<u>clinical research</u>.

To make the quality system widely available, the consortium has launched an online educational platform providing education and training in the principles and application of quality and rigor, and published recommendations for the internal validity in the design, conduct and analysis of biomedical experiments involving laboratory animals.

Professor Malcolm Macleod of the University of Edinburgh, coordinator of the EQIPD consortium, said: "The EQIPD partners worked
very efficiently as a cohesive unit, even when challenged by unforeseen
circumstances, such as the COVID pandemic. Via access to non-clinical
data from industry we have been able to explore those variables in study
design and data analysis that influence outcomes in preclinical
neuroscience and safety studies conducted in industry, and to establish
whether these are the same variables that influence outcomes in
academic studies. The outcomes from this analysis and the
recommendations of internal validity informed a series of animal
experiments conducted by the consortium, and we were able to
demonstrate the benefits of harmonization across labs."

To sustain the efforts of the consortium, EQIPD is in the process of founding the Guarantors of EQIPD society. Dr. Thomas Steckler of Janssen Pharmaceutica, project leader of the EQIPD consortium, added: "The Guarantors of EQIPD consist of a group of the EQIPD project team members and will be responsible for the overall guidance and administration of academic and educational programs, and the



dissemination of the EQIPD vision. The guarantors will oversee the deployment of the EQIPD Quality System, working with by an independent globally acting partner organization to provide the operational support and services required for day-to-day business management during the implementation and maintenance of the EQIPD Quality System at interested research units."

The EQIPD quality system is freely available and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.eqipd.online">www.eqipd.online</a> or <a href="eqipd-toolbox.paasp.net/wiki/EQIPD\_Quality\_System">eqipd.online</a> (puality system) are encouraged to contact info@eqipd.online for additional information.

Provided by European College of Neuropsychopharmacology

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