

CALLING ON WISCONSIN TO ADVANCE HUMAN-RELEVANT, NON-ANIMAL METHODS

Dane County has long been recognized as a center for biotechnology, biomedical research, healthcare innovation, and higher education, supported by leading research institutions, technical colleges, healthcare systems, and a growing life science economy. Wisconsin's bio health industry contributes more than \$37 billion in annual economic impact.¹

The University of Wisconsin–Madison, located in Dane County, conducted approximately \$1.9 billion in annual research spending in Fiscal Year 2024, including approximately \$1.2 billion in life sciences research, ranking among the top research institutions nationally and positioning Dane County to help lead emerging biomedical innovation.¹

Scientific innovation continues to advance the development of human-relevant, non-animal methods (“NAMs”), including computational modeling, artificial intelligence and machine learning, biochemical and cell-based systems, organoids, organs-on-chips, tissue modeling, and simulation-based technologies designed to improve scientific rigor, reproducibility, efficiency, translational potential, and relevance to human biology.²

Educational institutions and training programs increasingly have access to scientifically sound alternatives to animal-based instruction, including virtual simulations, anatomical models, and instructional videos that may complement or replace traditional methods where appropriate. Peer-reviewed educational research suggests that such alternatives may provide similar levels of student interest, well-being, and educational engagement while reducing negative emotional responses associated with animal dissection and supporting student-centered approaches to science education.³

Institutions of higher education, technical colleges, healthcare systems, public agencies, and workforce development partners increasingly play a critical role in advancing biomedical innovation and preparing students and workers for careers in biotechnology, biomedical research, and modern scientific methods, positioning Dane County to help lead emerging biomedical innovation.

Dane County is uniquely positioned to support scientific innovation and help advance the transition toward validated, human-relevant, non-animal research methods through collaboration with educational institutions, researchers, healthcare systems, public agencies, and industry stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the advancement, development, validation, and implementation of scientifically sound, human-relevant, non-animal research and training methods that enhance scientific rigor, reproducibility, translational potential, and relevance to human biology.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages partnerships among educational institutions, technical colleges, public schools, researchers,

¹ <https://wedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Biohealth-Industry-Profile-2026.pdf>

² <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/science/sya-iccvam>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10244783/>

healthcare systems, biotechnology organizations, workforce development partners, and community stakeholders to expand educational pathways, apprenticeships, scientific training, and workforce opportunities related to non-animal methods and biomedical innovation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages educational institutions, technical colleges, and school systems to explore scientifically sound alternatives to animal-based instruction, including animal-free dissection technologies and simulation-based learning tools where educationally appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports engagement with biotechnology, life sciences, healthcare, education, and research stakeholders to identify opportunities, barriers, infrastructure needs, and workforce considerations related to expanding non-animal methodologies and strengthening Dane County's biomedical innovation ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports the advancement of veterinary medicine and animal health research through ethically conducted, informed-consent-based clinical trial models, whereby animal owners or authorized caregivers may voluntarily enroll animals with naturally occurring conditions in research studies when there is a reasonable expectation of potential therapeutic benefit for the condition being studied, and where such participation is guided by principles consistent with established research ethics, including respect for autonomy of the caregiver decision-making process, beneficence, non-maleficence, and scientific integrity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors encourages state and federal policymakers, research agencies, and funding partners to expand investment in the research, validation, scaling, and implementation of non-animal methodologies, including workforce development, education, and research infrastructure funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports continued progress toward full implementation of animal-free science by promoting validated, scientifically rigorous, and human-relevant alternatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors requests that the Dane County lobbyist support the consideration of human-relevant, non-animal research and training methods within the Dane County legislative agenda.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be shared with Governor Tony Evers; Wisconsin's U.S. Congressional delegation; members of the Wisconsin Legislature representing Dane County; the Office of Research, Innovation, Validation and Application at the National Institutes of Health; the Boards of Education and superintendents of Dane County public school districts, including Madison Metropolitan, Verona Area, Belleville, Cambridge, DeForest Area, Deerfield, Marshall, McFarland, Middleton–Cross Plains Area, Monona Grove, Mount Horeb Area, Oregon, Stoughton Area, Sun Prairie Area, Waunakee Community, and Wisconsin Heights; the deans and chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Edgewood College, and Madison College; and biomedical research and life sciences organizations in Dane County, including Labcorp and Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals.