



European Animal
Research Association

Patient Discovery Project

Expanding patient-researcher-policymaker
dialogue in Europe



European Animal Research Association

EARA is the only global **communications and advocacy organisation** to enhance public and regulatory **understanding of animal use** in research.

EARA aims to be the leading voice for animal research organizations in Europe, address political pressure on animal research phase-out, promote cultural change and transparency.

EARA has grown quickly since established in 2014 we now have over 230 institutional members.

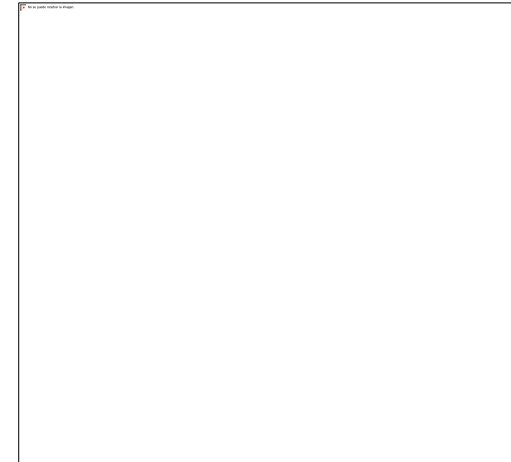
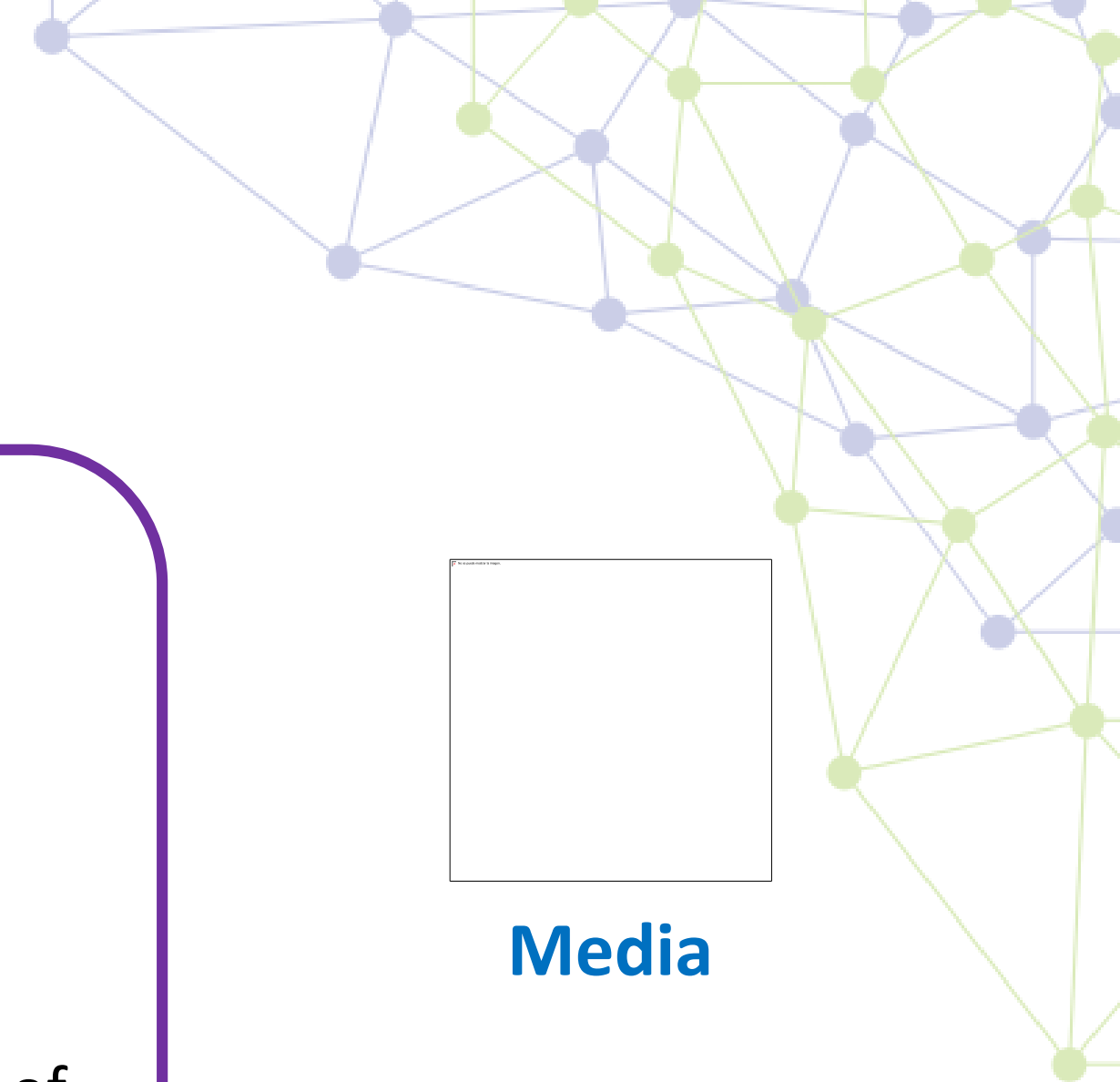




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236 MEMBERS

(Part of) our audiences

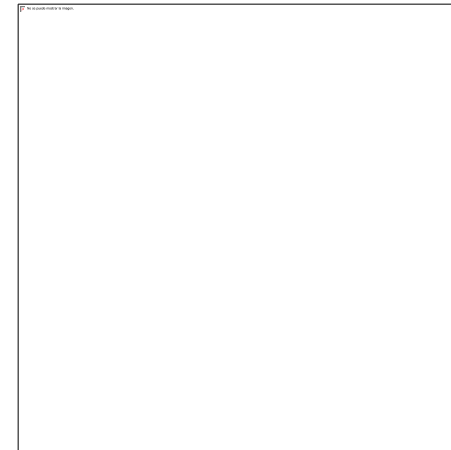


Citizens/Society

Somewhat interested in science

Often distant from research

Limited knowledge of disease burden



Policymakers

Influence regulation

Focus on policy outcomes

Limited scientific exposure



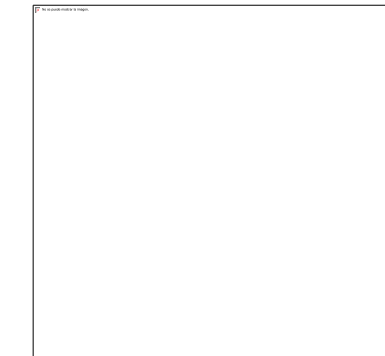
Patients

Direct beneficiaries of research

Lived experience

Connect research to real needs

Unheard voice



Media

Inform public debate

Amplify information

Communication expertise

Patients as a target group for communicating animal research

- Direct beneficiaries of scientific research that uses animals but often overlooked in discussions.
- Engage in two-way conversations that hear the patients' voice and show the importance of biomedical research.
- Empower patients to make informed decisions and engage meaningfully with biomedical research.



Patients as a target group for communicating animal research

- Direct beneficiaries of scientific research that uses animals but often overlooked.

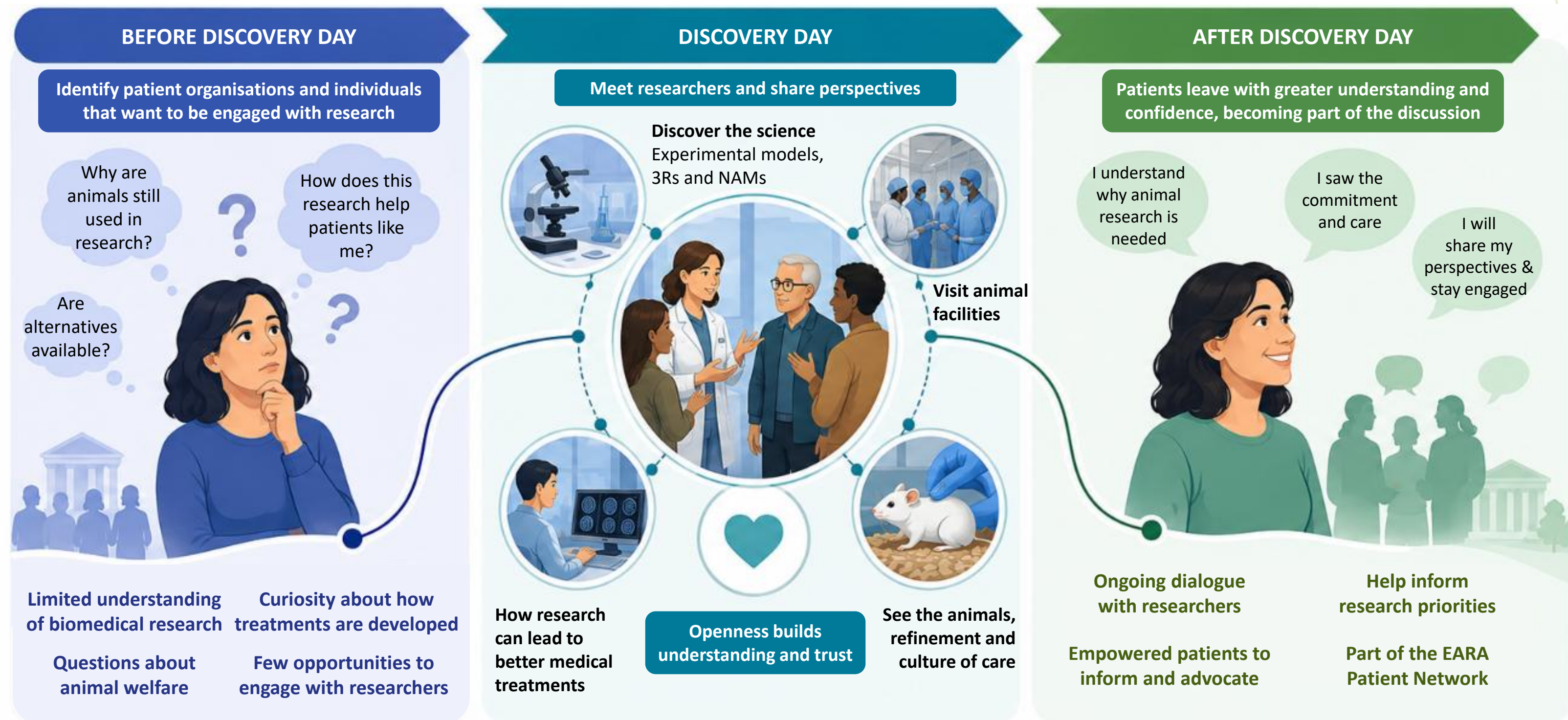
- Engage in two-way communication to hear the patient perspective and the importance of their research.

- Empower patients to make informed decisions and engage meaningfully with biomedical research.

Patients are not simply another audience
They are partners whose lived experience can
improve research relevance and public
understanding



Patient Discovery Project by EARA



Parkinson's Patients Discovery Day at BPRC The Netherlands

Talks about research methods using
primates and its alternatives

Tour of the primate facilities
Extensive welfare measures, enriched
housing and training protocols that
help animals participate willingly in
research tasks

*"I came in with some reservations, but all
respect for how they do it here!"*

*"It was an enlightening, professional
visit in a pleasant atmosphere."*



Discovery Day with EFNA and Leuven Brain Institute/KU Leuven

Talks about the **scientific process** in neuro research, from fundamental mechanisms to clinical application

Lab visits showcasing research in **fruit flies, mice and macaques** and animal facility tours

Visit to the **clinical imaging facility**: PD and AD biomarkers validated in primates and now used in humans

“KU Leuven sets a powerful example of how science and humanity can walk hand in hand. Their dedication to the 3Rs and open dialogue around animal welfare left a lasting impression.”

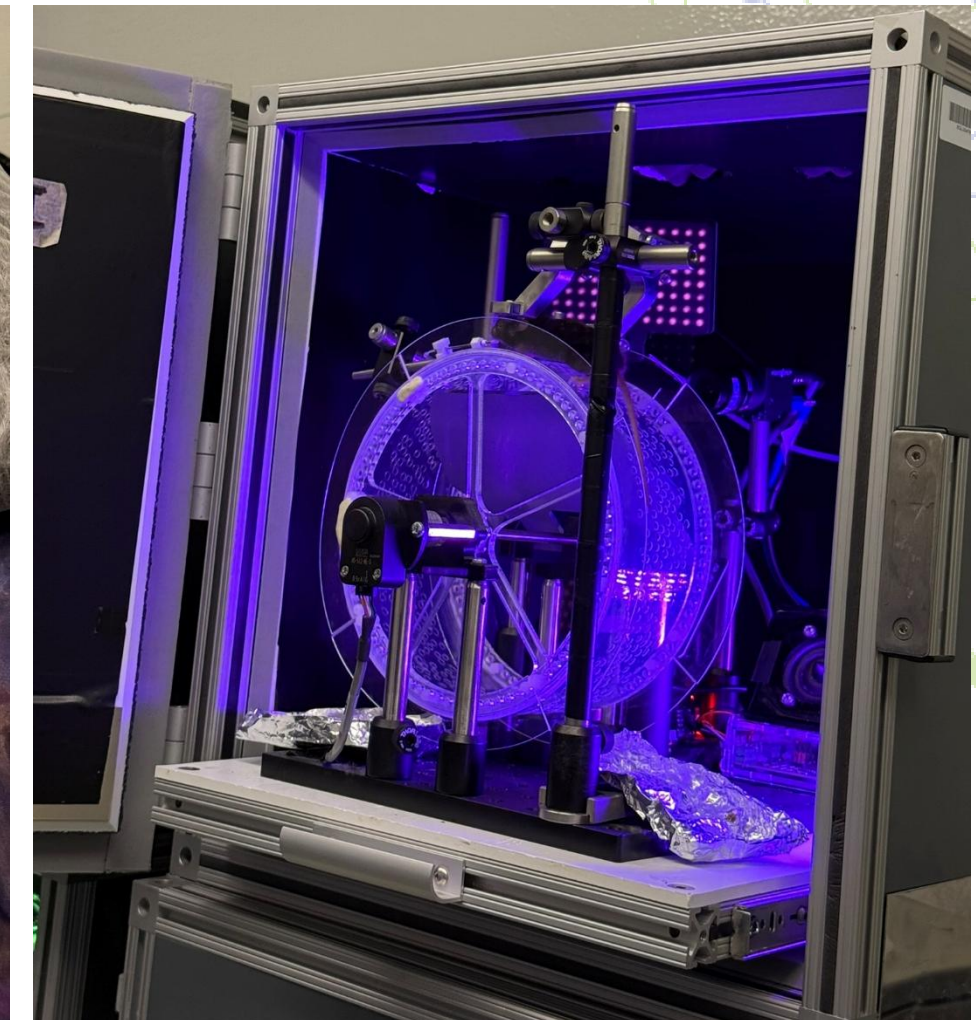


Patient Discovery Day in Portugal – Young Parkies Champalimaud Foundation and YoungParkies

Inserted in the Young Parkies annual conference.

Brought together people living **with early onset Parkinson's** and researchers dedicated to study alterations in movement related to this condition.

Visit to the **mouse facility** with demonstration of different **behavioral tests** used.



“The visit to the animal facility, together with the explanation of some ongoing research, helped us better understand the challenges, demands and complexity behind the work carried out there.”

“Seeing the rigour of the research up close did not give us promises, but rather a certainty: that there is a genuine commitment to finding solutions. For those living with early-onset Parkinson's, this does not solve the present. But it changes how we face the future, giving us greater hope.”

Patient Discovery Day in Madrid with imas12, UCM and Freno al Ictus

Brought together **stroke survivors** and researchers that study new treatments for this brain injury - Ignacio Lizasoain, Antonio Martínez Ruíz, María Gutiérrez Fernández and Jesús M. Pradillo Justo.

Progress from basic research to clinical studies.

Guided visit to the **advanced imaging facility**.

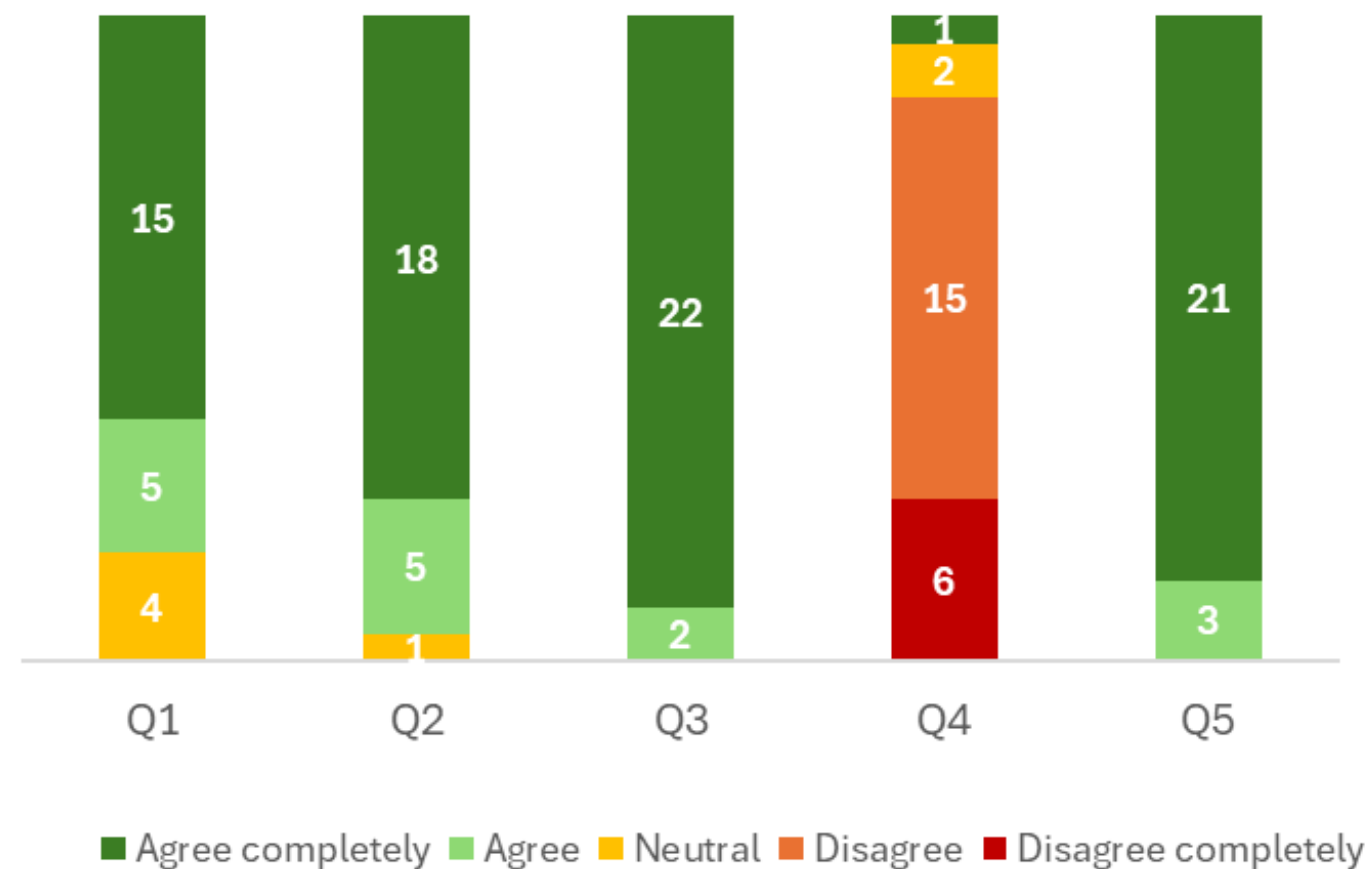
“The patients attending the event gained a deeper insight into the field of research and the advances currently being achieved. One of the attendees described the visit as very interesting, explaining that she had previously been unaware of the research being carried out.”



Patient Discovery Day in Madrid with imas12, UCM and Freno al Ictus



Feedback from participants



Q1: My views on animal research changed positively.

Q2: Researchers prioritise the well-being of animals in their studies.

Q3: Animal experiments have influenced the development of medical treatments.

Q4: I accept a slower pace of medical progress if fewer animals are used in research.

Q5: It is important that institutions are transparent about their use of animals.

- **Knowledge gain and understanding** of how animal and non-animal models, including New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), are used together across the research process
- **Increased trust** in researchers and institutions, particularly regarding animal welfare standards and responsible model selection
- **Strong appreciation** for first-hand access to facilities that are usually not easily accessible
- **Positive impact on researchers**, who report improved understanding of patient perspectives

The future of the Patient Discovery Project

Patient advocacy network

Platform where people living with medical conditions can connect, learn and actively contribute to discussions on biomedical research.

Patient Discovery Days are expanding across Europe

More patients will have the chance to connect with researchers and see first-hand how the use of animals in biomedical research contributes to advance medical treatments.

Upcoming Discovery Days

Friedrich Miescher Institute for Biomedical Research, Switzerland
Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
Magdeburg University and DZPG, Germany
KU Leuven, Belgium



Past (green) and future (blue) events

Partners



Visit the Patient Discovery website:
eara.eu/patient-discovery

or scan the QR code:





Inês Serrenho

Patient Engagement & Grants Officer

 iserrenho@eara.eu



**European Animal
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**Engaging
Informing
Supporting**