

SERIOUSLY ILL FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

“Seriously Ill for Medical Research (SIMR) is a patients’ advocacy group which promotes medical research. SIMR also supports the humane use of animals and the ethical use of biotechnology in medical research. We recognize that medical scientists need living systems to research and develop treatments for complex diseases. SIMR is *THE* patients’ voice for medical progress.

Since SIMR was founded in 1991 by Andrew Blake, who sadly died on 24th May this year, the organization has gone from strength to strength. With the support of hundreds of seriously ill patients, their families, carers and friends, we have taken our message far and wide; from party political conferences in the UK, to the European Parliament in Strasbourg – where in 1998 we lobbied MEP’s to support a European Union Directive on the patenting of new advancements in biotechnology.

SIMR has an impressive list of Patrons and members of the Medical Panel, including Jane Asher, Esther Rantzen OBE, Prof Stephen Hawking CBE, Dr Jonathan Miller, Professor Lord Winston and Prof Sir Roy Calne.

As a patients’ group SIMR believes that animals should only be used when there are no alternatives and fully supports the Three R’s. We also believe that the pharmaceutical industry, who research new drug treatments and therapies, and the patients who receive them, should be able to work together whenever possible. One example of this is The SIMR/PFIZER ANDREW BLAKE TRIBUTE AWARD, launched in March 2002, which will be awarded to an animal technician who has made, or had, a significant impact on the welfare of the animals in their care. This Award is the patients’ way of acknowledging both the animal technician’s who care for the animals and the contribution made to medical research by the animals themselves.”

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