

ARE ANIMAL MODELS USEFUL FOR DRUG DEVELOPMENT IN DISEASES WITH RELATIVELY UNEXPLORED ETHIOPATHOGENESIS? NO

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Disease modeling in laboratory animals was always a challenge to understand pathogenesis of neurodegeneration and to test new therapies. However, not all animal models reproduce well the symptoms, lesions, and cause of different neurodegenerative diseases. Therefore, I try to offer in this paper a critical view of models used for treatment translation to clinical studies. I conclude that transgenic models are important for understanding gene/protein function but not necessarily for testing drugs for neurodegenerative disorders. Instead of artificial/transgenic models, more natural neurodegenerative models should be used in current research, with better chances for novel drug discovery.

Acknowledgement

This paper is supported by the Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development (SOP HRD), financed from the European Social Fund and by the Romanian Government under the contract number POSDRU/89/1.5/S/64109.