Lesson 1 – Learning From Animals

GLOSSARY

Bioethics
A field of study relating ethical considerations to biological research and medicine.

Clinical trial
Series of experimental tests on human patients to determine the safety and efficacy of new drugs or medical procedures, usually preceded by animal testing.

Compliance
The requirement of research methods to comply with legally and ethically required standards.

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act
A 1937 statute that remains the basis of food and drug regulation by the FDA today. Instigated after the “Elixir Sulfanilamide Incident” (see sulfanilamide).

Sulfanilamide
An antibiotic with a flavoring that included a toxic solvent, marketed without animal testing, leading to more than 100 deaths.

Three Rs
Guidelines to ensure animal welfare in research, including the concepts of Reduce (use fewer animals in experimentation when possible), Replace (substitute animal models with newer scientific methods, like computer modeling, imaging techniques, in vitro studies, etc. when appropriate), and Refine (employ experimental methods to reduce animal hardship).