



# Culture of Care

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NEWSLETTER

DEC 2025

**3 R** Swiss 3R  
Competence  
**C C** Centre

**Good morning reader,**

As the end of the year approaches, we would like to share some 3Rs achievements from this year. In this Culture of Care release we celebrate the inspiring awardees and nominees of the annual award.

Established in 2022, this prestigious award recognises outstanding individual or collaborative efforts that proactively foster a strong Culture of Care (CoC) within Swiss research institutions that use animals for research.

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## The 2025 Culture of Care Awardees!

This year the Culture of Care Award goes to the **Culture of Care Working Group at the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), Bellinzona Institutes of Science (BIOS+)**. The group was honoured during this week's SGV Annual Meeting for its inclusive and systematic approach to improving communication, transparency and welfare standards in animal research.

Formed in 2024, the working group brings together animal care staff, researchers, veterinarians and administrators to jointly advance the 3Rs and foster a supportive environment for both animals and people. Their initiatives include a shared *"Mouse Research Community"* Teams platform for knowledge exchange, harmonised standard operating procedures (SOPs) to enhance reproducibility and community events such as *Laboratory Animal Technician Week* and *Culture of Care in Action* seminars. The jury praised the group for its innovation, inclusiveness and highly transferable approach.



Members of the working group present at the award ceremony in Zurich: Melania Osto, Laura Terzaghi, Cristina Torcasio, Deborah Piffaretti and Davide Manfredini.

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## The 2024 Culture of Care Awardees (in case you missed them!)

Petra Seebeck (UZH) and Stephan Zeiter (AO Research Institute Davos) received the award for their pioneering **Initiative for good surgical practice in research**.

Their programme has already trained more than **250 researchers across Switzerland**, setting new standards for **rodent surgery** and improving both **animal welfare and research quality**. By providing hands-on and theoretical training in sterile techniques, patient preparation and surgical procedures, their initiative fills critical training gaps and strengthens compassion and respect for animals and staff alike.



**2024 Awardees: Petra Seebeck (UZH) & Stephan Zeiter (AO Research Institute Davos) received the award at the SGV Meeting last year.**

## Nominee Highlights from 2025

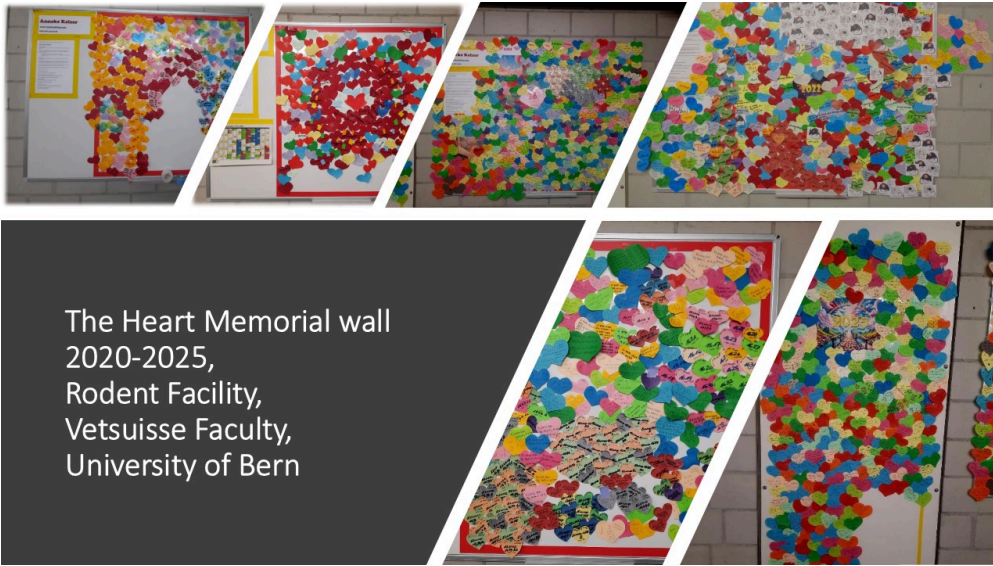
We thank all submitted projects for their admirable efforts in the Culture of Care and would like to take the time to spotlight some other impressive activities:

### **Promoting Transparency on Animal Experimentation: An Interview Series at UNIL — Dr. Klara Soukup, University of Lausanne:**

To highlight the often-invisible contributors to animal research, this series features interviews with professionals ensuring responsible and respectful treatment of animals. It sheds light on the human side of the 3Rs and fosters openness about research practices.

### **Fostering a Culture of Care at Vetsuisse Bern — Prof. Dr. Lundström-Stadelmann, Myriam Siffert and Anneke Keizer, University of Bern:**

Laboratory animal work can be ethically complex and emotionally demanding. The nominee's initiative "Mouse Day" created a safe space for open discussions around ethics, emotions, and scientific quality in animal experimentation—laying the foundation for a growing Culture of Care community at the Vetsuisse Bern.



**A Taskforce for Animal Caretakers' Occupational Health and Safety — Niels Dupont, University of Geneva:**

Recognising the crucial yet demanding role of animal facility staff, this taskforce addresses physical and psychological risks faced by caretakers. It fosters a safer, more supportive environment for those safeguarding animal welfare every day.

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The Swiss Culture of Care Network meets twice a year, we welcome you to join us as we advance animal welfare and the 3Rs beyond compliance. If you would like to join the network please apply by sending a CV and motivation letter to [info@swiss3rcc.org](mailto:info@swiss3rcc.org).

Until next time,

The 3RCC Directorate Team

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