

Animal models get closer to mimicking humans: Could help with treatment of diseases

[Animal models](#) contribute significantly to our understanding of molecular mechanisms underlying disease pathologies. However, few models predictably translate preclinical findings into what will happen in humans.

Investigational drugs are able to cure mice from many diseases, but continue to fail in clinical trials. This fact is largely attributed to poor model designs that do not sufficiently reflect the pathophysiology of disease in humans. In addition, tremendous diversity of human genetic background, co-medications, dosing, timing of treatment, and many other factors greatly influence the treatment outcome.

The new generation of animal models, described in this article, takes into consideration previous shortcomings. These models aim to reflect the human condition as closely as possible and to close the gap between translational research and the bedside.

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