Research Question
Is public acceptance of animal-based research affected by having regulatory oversight in place?

Methods
Two different web-based surveys asked participants: “Do you support the use of 100 animals in scientific research?”

SURVEY 1: Research to reduce phosphorous pollution (n=681)
Three scenarios:
1. Pigs fed two different natural grain diets
2. Pigs surgically implanted with a fistula to determine the effects of two diets
3. Pigs genetically modified (GM) to produce less phosphorous in their manure

SURVEY 2: Animals as cancer models (n=384)
Four scenarios:
1. Zebrafish exposed to chemicals that cause tumours
2. Mice exposed to chemicals that cause tumours
3. GM zebrafish predisposed to developing tumours
4. GM mice predisposed to developing tumours

• In each survey participants that supported scenario 1 in were randomised to either scenario 2 or 3, and then asked if they continued to support the research
• Participants in Survey 2 that supported scenario 3 were then asked if they supported scenario 4
• For the results presented below, participants were initially told that the experiments were unregulated. Those who did not support the research in a given scenario were directed to the same scenario, but with the research now regulated.

Survey 1: Results

Survey 2: Results

Conclusions
• Invasiveness and GM decrease public acceptance of research on animals
• Willingness to accept animal research increases when regulation is in place
• Changing species from zebrafish to mice has little effect on public acceptance