NIH FUNDED THIS

IS THIS HOW YOU WANT YOUR TAX DOLLARS SPENT?

Since 2015, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has squandered $300,000 of your tax money on cruel and invasive “parabiosis” experiments at the University of Virginia (UVA) in which pairs of mice are surgically joined together so that they will share a bloodstream.

The experimenters cut each mouse from the elbow to the knee—almost the full length of the body—then stitched them together.

Next they injected a bacterial toxin into the mice to create sepsis, a grave condition in which the body turns on itself, producing symptoms that include widespread pain, difficulty breathing, and multi-organ failure. The mice suffered for a long time before finally dying—in some cases, for days.

The kicker? These experiments won’t help humans.
In 2013, a landmark study that took a decade to complete and involved dozens of researchers from institutions across the country found that the results of sepsis experiments conducted on mice can’t be applied to humans, because the condition in mice isn’t the same as it is in humans. The study was so groundbreaking that NIH Director Francis Collins published an article about it, lamenting the time and resources spent developing 150 drugs that had successfully treated sepsis in mice but failed in human clinical trials.

In spite of this, NIH continues to fund sepsis experiments on mice.

An expert working group consisting of veterinarians, animal technologists, and scientists have suggested multiple modern research methods to replace the use of animals in sepsis studies—including *in vitro* cell culture models, “tissue chips,” synthetic human models, systems and computational biology, and population and clinical studies.

References


Please urge NIH to stop squandering our tax dollars and animals’ lives.  
Take action at PETA.org/Sepsis.