



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

April 22, 2020

Christopher L. Eisgruber, J.D.  
Office of the President  
c/o Erin E. Graham  
Assistant to the President  
Princeton University  
1 Nassau Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544

Via e-mail: [egramham@princeton.edu](mailto:egramham@princeton.edu)

Dear President Eisgruber,

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide regarding an urgent matter. Based on the repeated and documented failure of Princeton University to meet the provisions of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and given the COVID-19 pandemic that is influencing the shut-down of animal experiments around the world,<sup>1</sup> we urge Princeton to immediately: 1) prohibit approval of new animal protocols and experiments; 2) prohibit breeding and acquisition of new animals for laboratories; 3) finalize and end ongoing animal experiments; and, 4) prove that all of these animals and experiments are concretely advancing human health, and if they're not then switch to superior human-relevant, animal-free research methods.<sup>2</sup>

### **Princeton's Culture of Noncompliance: Violations to the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals**

According to public records obtained by PETA from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) via the Freedom of Information Act, Princeton has reported violations to the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The following are a few of them: 20 mice had their hind limbs paralyzed after undergoing an unapproved procedure, this was not reported to the veterinary staff, and the experimenters subjected 15 of these mice to a new procedure although the veterinarian had instructed them to euthanize the animals; a primate did not receive care after being subjected to an invasive experimental

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/14/coronavirus-pandemic-forces-research-labs-shut-down/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US\\_FINAL\\_2020\\_300.pdf](https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US_FINAL_2020_300.pdf)

Washington, D.C.  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Berkeley  
2855 Telegraph Ave.  
Ste. 301  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

procedure; and a mice died when the staff failed to ensure that a treatment plan was followed.

### **COVID-19: Ending Animal Experiments Protects Animals, Staff, and Patients**

As part of its COVID-19 contingency plan, Princeton urged its experimenters “to halt all non-essential on-campus research activities,”<sup>3</sup> which will likely lead to the killing of many animals. This begs the question why taxpayer dollars are being used on experiments that can easily be ended or delayed or that involve animals who, apparently, are considered by many universities to be extraneous to the testing in the first place. Equally troubling is that the experiments themselves are not critical to advancing human health, since more than 90 percent of highly promising basic science discoveries (most of which involve animal experiments) do not enter routine clinical use in humans.<sup>4</sup>

We call on Princeton to publicly release the following information:

- 1) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will continue as part of Princeton’s COVID-19 response plan (such that they may be categorized as critical, essential, necessary, and/or other similar terminology);
- 2) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will not continue as part of Princeton’s COVID-19 response plan (such that they may be categorized as extraneous, non-critical, non-essential, ramped down, disposable, unnecessary and/or other similar terminology);
- 3) The number and species of animals who are in experimental protocols covered by item number 1 above (e.g., in a critical and/or similar terminology category), and the number and species of animals who are in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., not in a critical and/or similar terminology category); and,
- 4) The endpoint/disposition of animals used in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., not in a critical and/or similar terminology category), and notice of if, when, and how many of these animals have been and/or will be euthanized, culled, killed, destroyed, disposed or reduced in cage census.

You can contact me by e-mail at [ShalinG@peta.org](mailto:ShalinG@peta.org) or by telephone at 757-962-8325. We look forward to your swift reply to this quickly developing and urgent matter. Thank you.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://research.princeton.edu/sites/research/files/dfr\\_halt-research-memo.pdf](https://research.princeton.edu/sites/research/files/dfr_halt-research-memo.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g3387.long>

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalin G. Gala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S" that loops under the rest of the name.

Shalin G. Gala  
Vice President, International Laboratory Methods  
Laboratory Investigations Department