



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

March 27, 2020

Gene Block, Ph.D.
Chancellor's Office
University of California, Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1405

Via e-mail: chancellor@ucla.edu

Dear Chancellor Block,

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 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) 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,¹ we urge UCLA 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.²

UCLA'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, UCLA has reported many violations to the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. The following are a few of them: in two different incidents, several mice were likely left in pain when staff members failed to provide them with the appropriate dose of analgesics after the animals underwent surgery; frogs did not receive any care during the weekends for two months when a principal investigator failed to check on them; in two separate occasions, three live rats were found in a cooler when staff failed to verify the efficacy of the euthanasia procedure; six monkeys were left with no water for a day when a

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

² https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US_FINAL_2020_300.pdf

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technician failed to follow the care instructions; and three guinea pigs were euthanized by a method that was not included in the approved protocol.

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

UCLA is apparently urging principal investigators “to ramp down or terminate research,”³ which will likely lead to the killing of countless 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.⁴

We call on UCLA to publicly release the following information:

- 1) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will continue as part of as part of UCLA’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 as part of UCLA’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 an essential 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 an essential 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 an essential 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 or by telephone at 757-962-8325. We look forward to your swift reply to this quickly developing and urgent matter. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Shalin G. Gala
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³ <https://rsawa.research.ucla.edu/arc/>

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