



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

March 24, 2020

Pradeep K. Khosla, Ph.D.
Office of the Chancellor
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive # 0005
La Jolla, California 92093-0005

Via e-mail: chancellor@ucsd.edu

Dear Chancellor Khosla,

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. Given the COVID-19 pandemic that is influencing the shut-down of animal experiments around the world,¹ we urge University of California, San Diego (UC-San Diego) 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

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

As part of its COVID-19 contingency plan, UC-San Diego is urging experimenters to “[c]onsider culling non-essential animals.”³ This begs the question why taxpayer dollars are being used on experiments that can easily be ended or that involve animals who, apparently, are considered 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 UC-San Diego to publicly release the following information:

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

³ <https://blink.ucsd.edu/research/COVID-19-research.html#Animal-Research>

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

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.)

- 1) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will continue as part of UC-San Diego'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 UC-San Diego'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 other similar terminology category), and the number and species of animals who are in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., in a non-critical and/or other similar terminology category); and,
- 4) The endpoint/disposition of animals used in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., in a "non-critical" and/or similar terminology category), and notice of if, when, and how many of these animals are euthanized, culled, killed, destroyed, disposed and/or have reduction in cage census.

You can contact me directly 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalin G. Gala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop at the beginning.

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