



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

April 24, 2020

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
Office of the President
University of Nebraska Medical Center
42nd and Emile
Omaha, NE 68198

Via e-mail: Jeffrey.Gold@unmc.edu; unmcwebmaster@unmc.edu

Dear President Gold,

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 the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) 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

In response to UNMC's COVID-19 contingency plan, one of its experimenters stated on March 28, 2020, that his laboratory had "donated all culled mice to our local Raptor Rescue and Rehab" and added that his "lab does this normally, but there definitely was a huge spike in quantity give the pandemic."³ When combined with similar action by other experimenters, this will likely lead to the destruction of hundreds of animals or more who are deemed non-critical or non-essential. 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 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

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

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://twitter.com/caseredoxlab/status/1243984296685326337>

Affiliates:

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

promising basic science discoveries (most of which involve animal experiments) do not enter routine clinical use in humans.⁴

We call on UNMC to publicly release the following information:

- 1) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will continue as part of UNMC'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 UNMC'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 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
Vice President, International Laboratory Methods
Laboratory Investigations Department

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