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Dear President Shullman,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters around the world, regarding an upcoming issue of *Behavioral Neuroscience*, one of the journals of the American Psychological Association. We understand that this issue will be dedicated to the function of the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC). We further understand that the issue will be co-edited by Elisabeth A. Murray, a primate experimenter whose inglorious career of nearly 40 years has failed to produce a single treatment for the human neuropsychiatric disorders she purports to study. We propose that the upcoming issue of the journal include a human-based study of the role of the OFC in cultivating empathy for others; and we believe Murray could play a key role in this study. Please allow me to explain.

### **Abject Cruelty, Worthless Studies**

In [our review of the body of Murray's work](#), PETA has found that her experiments on monkeys are both abominably cruel and [thoroughly lacking in scientific rigor](#). PETA has obtained [43-hours of stomach-churning video footage](#) inside Murray's laboratory, shot by Murray's colleagues and showing experimenters [routinely plumbing the depths of abject cruelty](#) by intentionally inducing inescapable terror in monkeys whose surgically damaged brains are unable to process their fear normally. We have attached a photographic still of one such monkey, named Wilfork, who was used in Murray's experiments.

Murray and her staff carve out a section of a monkey's skull, inject toxins into the brain or suction out portions of it, causing permanent damage. The monkeys are then placed, alone, in a small metal cage held inside a larger box, painted flat black. A guillotine-like door at the front suddenly and rapidly rises, revealing a realistic-looking snake or a spider, some of which can slither or jump. Monkeys, like all primates, innately fear snakes. Some respond defensively—freezing and looking or turning away. Others shake the cage. Some show signs of submission by grimacing or smacking their lips.

### **PETA's Proposal**

Murray has tormented monkeys in this manner for nearly four decades, making her a perfect candidate for a study we suggest you include in the upcoming issue of *Behavioral Neuroscience*. This study would explore the role of the OFC in reduced empathy for other living beings. As you know, the OFC is thought to up-

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regulate or down-regulate emotional responses to help modify behavior in a particular context. It is widely believe that this includes down regulating one's inherent emotional response to the pain of others, especially if that pain can be devalued relative to one's own gain.

In our study, Murray would submit to a functional MRI (fMRI) while observing the photo of Wilfork. The results of her brain activity would then be compared to those non-experimenters, chosen from the [52 percent of Americans who oppose animal experimentation](#), under the same conditions. We suggest that Geoffrey Schoenbaum join Murray, so she would not be the lone experimenter in the study. Schoenbaum is also named as a co-editor for your upcoming issue and shares vast experience in tormenting living beings.

Will Murray's fMRI show the same flurry of activity in her OFC as those who oppose animal experimentation? Doubtful. But we'll let the scans speak for themselves.

### **Conclusion**

It is possible that Murray could, for the first time in her long career, contribute positively to scientific progress by her participation in this study. And she could do so without causing any living being to suffer, also for the first time in her long career. That just might lead, finally, to a breakthrough in compassionate, non-animal, scientific inquiry that provides results to human patients in desperate need of effective treatment. It could be the beginning of the end of the unilateral, merciless war waged on vulnerable beings by pathologically cruel and heartless individuals in the name of "science."

It is our sincere hope that you give this suggestion serious consideration, for the sake of all living beings.

Sincerely,



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