



August 30, 2023

Aaron B. Caughey, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair
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Oregon Health & Science University

Via e-mail: caughey@ohsu.edu

Dear Dr. Caughey:

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally. **After hearing from PETA, the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center recently announced that it no longer uses live animals in its obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) physician residency training program.¹ We urge Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to follow suit by ending the use of live animals for its respective OB/GYN training.**

After hearing from PETA, UT Southwestern wrote to us that “living animal models are no longer utilized in OB/GYN residency training program simulation activities.”² According to records we've received, the school had previously used at least 13 pigs in recent training to perform laparoscopic hysterectomies, retroperitoneal dissections, and tissue morcellations.

As we described in the detailed brief we sent to you on April 18, animal-free methods for OB/GYN training are cost-effective, simulate real medical situations, and provide students with vital opportunities to repeat procedures until they're proficient.³

Dozens of OB/GYN residency programs don't use live animals in their training but still provide quality education to their trainees,⁴ and Rush University⁵ and

¹PETA. UT Southwestern stops cutting open live pigs. August 30, 2023. Accessed August 30, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/blog/ut-southwestern-stops-cutting-open-live-pigs>

²UT Southwestern. Response confirming no live animals used. August 15, 2023. Accessed August 24, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-08-15-no-live-animals-used.pdf>

³Swaminathan S. Letter to OHSU OB/GYN chair. April 18, 2023. Accessed August 24, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-04-18-letter-to-ohsu-ob-gyn-chair-with-brief.pdf>

⁴PETA. Animal use in OB/GYN physician residency training programs in the U.S. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/action/animal-use-in-ob-gyn-physician-residency-training-programs/>

⁵PETA. OB/GYN residents trade practice on live pigs for high-tech simulators. June 28, 2016. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/blog/obgyn-residents-trade-practice-live-pigs-high-tech-simulators/>

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Aurora Sinai Medical Center⁶ ended their use of animals for OB/GYN training, respectively, after discussions with PETA. OHSU can and should emulate this progress by adopting more effective, ethical, and economical animal-free training.

You can contact me directly at ShriyaS@peta.org. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,



Shriya Swaminathan
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⁶PETA. Hospital swaps live pigs for tech in OB/GYN training after PETA talks. July 29, 2021. Accessed August 28, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/blog/victory-aurora-sinai-medical-center-wisconsin-replaces-live-pigs-high-tech-simulators/>