



May 6, 2026

Dr. Jonathan Brotchie, PhD
 Founder, Director, and President
 Atuka Inc.

Via e-mail

Dear Dr. Brotchie:

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 10.4 million members and supporters globally—regarding an ongoing Pentagon-funded neuromuscular experiment on macaques at Atuka Inc. **Based on the information presented below, we urge you to immediately end this cruel and wasteful animal testing in favor of superior, human-relevant research methods.**

Records Confirm Animal Use for Neuromuscular Injury Experiments

Location	Atuka, Canada
Grant Number	Award #: W81XWH-22-1-1043; Proposal #: PR210682 ¹
Funder	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
Dates	September 3, 2022 – September 29, 2026
Obligated Amount	\$1,528,921
Summary	Experimenter Jonathan Brotchie subjects 24 female macaques to invasive brain surgeries in purported attempts to develop a "model" of dystonia. He injects viral vectors into the animals' cerebellums to induce debilitating symptoms, including abnormal muscle contractions and motor deficits, which the animals endure for months before being killed and dissected.
Critique	The human cerebellum (i.e., the dentate nucleus and its projections to the prefrontal cortex) has undergone an evolutionary expansion, resulting in distinct neural architecture and functional connectivity that makes macaque brains poor predictors of human clinical outcomes. ²

U.S. Federal Agencies are Shifting Away from Animal Testing

Because this Atuka Inc. experiment relies heavily on U.S. government funding, we must emphasize that U.S. federal agencies are undergoing a

¹ Project Grant W81XWH-22-1-1043—Development of a Non-Human Primate Model for the Identification and Development of Novel Therapeutics for Dystonia. DTIC. Accessed March 6, 2026. <https://dtic.dimensions.ai/details/grant/grant.13055960>.

² Ramnani N. The primate cortico-cerebellar system: anatomy and function. *Nat Rev Neurosci*. 2006; 7(7):511-522. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrn1953>

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massive shift away from animal testing. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),⁴ U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA),⁵ U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH),^{6,7} U.S. Navy,⁸ and others have announced historic plans to phase out animal testing,^{9,10} in alignment with PETA's Research Modernization NOW strategic framework for transforming research toward superior human-relevant methods.¹¹ We hope Atuka Inc. will emulate this transition away from cruel and wasteful experiments on animals.

You can contact me at MaggieW@peta.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,



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³ Grimm D. November 21, 2025. Exclusive: CDC to end all monkey research. *Science*. <https://www.science.org/content/article/exclusive-cdc-end-all-monkey-research>.

⁴ EPA January 26, 2026. *ICYMI: Administrator Zeldin gets EPA back on track to eliminate animal testing after Biden admin halted phase out*. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/icymi-administrator-zeldin-gets-epa-back-track-eliminate-animal-testing-after-biden>.

⁵ FDA. *FDA Announces Plan to Phase Out Animal Testing Requirement for Monoclonal Antibodies and Other Drugs*. April 10, 2025. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-plan-phase-out-animal-testing-requirement-monoclonal-antibodies-and-other-drugs>.

⁶ NIH. *NIH to prioritize human-based research technologies*. April 29, 2025. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-prioritize-human-based-research-technologies>

⁷ NIH. March 18, 2026. *NIH invests \$150 million in human-based research to reduce use of animal models*. <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-invests-150-million-human-based-research-reduce-use-animal-models>.

⁸ Fox News. *Navy halts dog and cat experiments; PETA writes Hegseth about US taxpayer-funded animal tests abroad*. May 31, 2025. *Fox News*. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/navy-halts-dog-cat-experiments-peta-writes-hegseth-about-us-taxpayer-funded-animal-tests-abroad>.

⁹ PETA. *The Trump administration's achievements for science and animals*. Accessed July 14, 2025. <https://www.peta.org/misc/the-trump-administrations-achievements-for-science-and-animals/>.

¹⁰ Bedard P. May 28, 2025. Trump cheered as 'best friend of animals' after research grants nixed. *Washington Examiner*. Accessed May 29, 2025. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/washington-secrets/3423973/trump-cheered-best-friend-of-animals-after-research-grants-nixed/>.

¹¹ PETA. *Research Modernization NOW*. April 2026. <https://science.peta.org/>.