



May 6, 2026

James Graham  
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
Recce Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.

Via e-mail

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you in advance for your time. We are writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) U.S. & PETA Australia—PETA entities have more than 10.4 million members and supporters globally—regarding an ongoing Pentagon-funded thermal burn injury experiment on rats and pigs at Recce Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. **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.**

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington  
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

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

### Records Confirm Animal Use for Thermal Burn Injury Experiments

<b>Location</b>	Recce Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Australia
<b>Grant Number</b>	Award # HT9425-24-1-0840; Proposal #: MB230052 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Funder</b>	Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
<b>Dates</b>	August 1, 2024 – July 31, 2027
<b>Obligated Amount</b>	\$2,000,000
<b>Summary</b>	Experimenter Michele Drazia inflicts severe thermal burns on rats and pigs to test a new synthetic anti-infective drug. In these experiments, she deliberately burns and infects the animals with dangerous bacteria (e.g., methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> [MRSA]) to create acute wound infections, before killing them. She then applies experimental gel formulations to the animals' open wounds to measure bacterial reduction and healing rates.
<b>Critique</b>	Unlike human skin, pig's skin lacks eccrine sweat glands and has a less developed vascular plexus, leading to significant differences in immune response and re-epithelialization that make the results poor predictors of human clinical outcomes. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Project Grant HT9425-24-1-0840—A Novel, Synthetic Antiinfective Drug Candidate, R-327, for the Acute Treatment of Burn Wounds and Downstream Sequelae. DTIC. Accessed March 6, 2026.

<https://dtic.dimensions.ai/details/grant/grant.14084345>.

<sup>2</sup> Elloso M, Hutter MF, Jeschke N, Rix G, Chen Y, Douglas A, Jeschke MG. Challenges of Porcine Wound Models: A Review. *Int J Transl Med*. 2025; 5(1):4.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijtm5010004>.

#### Entities:

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

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

Because this Recce Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. experiment relies heavily on U.S. government funding, we must emphasize that U.S. federal agencies are undergoing a massive shift away from animal testing. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),<sup>3</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),<sup>4</sup> U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA),<sup>5</sup> U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH),<sup>6,7</sup> U.S. Navy,<sup>8</sup> and others have announced historic plans to phase out animal testing,<sup>9,10</sup> in alignment with PETA U.S.' Research Modernization NOW strategic framework for transforming research toward superior human-relevant methods.<sup>11</sup> We hope Recce Pharmaceuticals, Ltd. will emulate this transition away from cruel and wasteful experiments on animals.

You can contact us at [MaggieW@peta.org](mailto:MaggieW@peta.org). Thank you for your consideration of this important issue, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,



Maggie Wisniewska, Ph.D.  
Science Policy Advisor  
International Laboratory Methods Division  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
PETA U.S.



Mimi Bekhechi  
Senior Policy Advisor to PETA Australia

---

<sup>3</sup> 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>.

<sup>4</sup> 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>.

<sup>5</sup> 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>.

<sup>6</sup> 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>

<sup>7</sup> 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>.

<sup>8</sup> Fox News. *Navy halts dog and cat experiments; PETA [U.S.] 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>.

<sup>9</sup> PETA U.S. *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/>.

<sup>10</sup> 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/>.

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