

April 15, 2004

Dear Member of the Board of Trustees,

We hope that, as a Columbia University trustee, you are aware of the serious controversy surrounding the university's cruel treatment of baboons used in stroke experiments. A courageous veterinarian named Catherine Dell'Orto blew the whistle on Columbia for failing to provide veterinary care, post-surgical analgesia, and euthanasia for the baboons who suffered and died in their cages after being surgically mutilated. Our organization has filed complaints with the National Institutes of Health, the agency that funded the experiment, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency that oversees the federal Animal Welfare Act. We are asking for your help in permanently ending the stroke experiment, as well as two other primate experiments that should embarrass Columbia, not only because of their cruelty, but because they are useless.

The stroke experiment took well over \$1 million from the taxpaying public so that E. Sander Connolly could cut out the left eyes of baboons and use the empty eye sockets to access major blood vessels to their brains, which he then clamped off in order to cause strokes. After inducing the stroke, Connolly used an experimental substance supplied by Progenics Pharmaceuticals called dehydroascorbic acid (DHA) to see whether it would mitigate damage to the baboons' brains. It did not.

In a February 28, 2001, letter to Columbia's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Connolly admitted that the DHA did not work in the baboons: "We completed a trial of a novel antioxidant compound (DHA) and were able to show that its efficacy in lower rodent models is not mirrored in primates."

Yet three months later, in a May 9, 2001, news release issued by Progenics, Columbia's Connolly is quoted as saying, "The positive outcome of this study underscores the potential of DHA to protect patients against the debilitating consequences of stroke." The news release does not disclose important information about the drug's failure in the baboon studies. We have filed complaints with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Attorney General's Office regarding this unconscionable failure to disclose critical information.

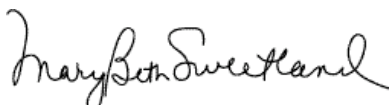
I would also like to point out that the stroke studies in baboons were even worse than they seem. Nicholas Dodman, D.V.M., an expert in veterinary anesthesiology at Tufts University, reviewed the protocol and discovered that an inadequate level of anesthesia was provided to the animals for the removal of their eyes. Dr. Dodman believes that the animals were immobilized but able to feel the pain from the enucleation procedure. An eye surgeon at Johns Hopkins tells us that enucleation is so painful that he provides his patients with up to three days of morphine treatment after the procedure. Connolly's baboons were given nothing after surgery—they died slumped over in their cages, unable to eat, drink, or move.

Two other experiments at Columbia need to be done away with. The first involves the implantation of metal pipes into the heads of female macaque monkeys to induce stress so that Michel Ferin can study the effects of stress on the menstrual cycle. The other experiment has been conducted for 23 years by Raymond Stark, who infuses pregnant baboons with morphine and nicotine to see what it does to their fetuses. The fetuses are removed from the uterus during the pregnancy and replaced after undergoing invasive surgeries. Some of the pregnant baboons have been through five survival surgeries. Their fetuses are always killed at the end in order to study their brains. I think that we all know that drug abuse and nicotine are bad for fetuses.

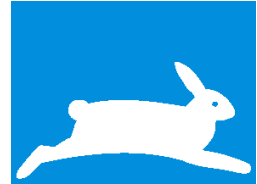
All three of these experiments are cruel, crude, and absolutely irrelevant to the human condition, but there are hundreds more just like them being conducted at Columbia—experiments that have little to no value except for providing a free ride on the research-grant gravy train for Columbia. Meanwhile, women are going without prenatal care and other valuable services.

Please let us know if you are going to help Columbia out of this mess. I can be reached at 757-962-8334 if you have any questions. You can read more about these experiments at ColumbiaCruelty.com. Please speak out against this cruelty.

Sincerely,



Mary Beth Sweetland, Senior Vice President
Director, Research & Investigations Department



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