



The Humane Society of the United States' Animal Research News & Analysis January 8, 2004

In this Issue...

- 1. University Suspends Researcher from Experimenting on Animals**
- 2. New Vet School Opens with Focus on Compassion Toward Animals**
- 3. UC Davis Vet School Halts Fatal Dog and Cat Labs**
- 4. ECVAM Reorganizes to Address Government Mandates on Testing**
- 5. University Teachers in India Given Humane Education Awards**

1. University Suspends Researcher from Experimenting on Animals

The University of Washington has suspended a researcher from experimenting on animals for one year, after he reportedly was found to have repeatedly violated the University's animal welfare guidelines. The University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which oversees all aspects of research animal care and use, found that the researcher had conducted experiments without the IACUC's approval and had falsely claimed to have received approval for a study he had published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, according to press accounts. (The *Journal* later requested that the researcher write a retraction for the article.) Additionally, the IACUC found that the researcher failed to euthanize mice that were suffering beyond the acceptable level, that he cut the tips off of mouse tails without anesthesia, and that he withheld food from mice without prior approval.

The one-year suspension, which followed a 30-day suspension to the same researcher earlier in 2003, is the longest suspension in the past four years for violations of the Seattle-based university's animal care rules. In an email to *The Seattle Times*, the researcher wrote, "There was no intention to subvert existing procedures or to compromise animal welfare." He added, "I have accepted responsibility for these shortcomings and am working closely with the (IACUC) and my department to rectify them."

Source: *The Seattle Times*

(http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001795354_uwanimal19m.html)

2. New Vet School Opens with Focus on Compassion Toward Animals

The United States' newest veterinary school, at Western University of Health Sciences located in Pomona, CA, emphasizes a "reverence for life" approach to teaching. No animals are operated on or euthanized solely for educational purposes. Students learn anatomy on dog and cat cadavers donated by owners of animals who have died naturally or have been euthanized due to

illness or old age, rather than on animals purchased from suppliers or seized from animal shelters. The campus has no veterinary hospital; instead, the students learn diagnosis and treatment by working on shelter animals with various medical and behavioral problems. The animals are returned to the shelter for adoption once they have recovered. According to the College of Veterinary Medicine's website, the emphasis on compassion "is designed to enhance a reverence for life...for all animals..., and not limit such reverence to owned or valued animals."

Sources: *Los Angeles Times*, October 7, 2003 (www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-vet7oct07.1.2838634.story?coll=la-headlines-california); Western University (www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/veterinary/home.xml)

3. UC Davis Vet School Halts Fatal Dog and Cat Labs

The University of California, Davis (UCD) veterinary school has ended its controversial practice of taking dogs and cats from a local animal shelter, using them in surgical demonstrations, and then killing them. Over a decade ago, the vet school began giving students the option of performing surgeries that were "survival" rather than "terminal". Now the college is ceasing all terminal surgeries. Moreover, the new policy is more of a win-win arrangement for the animals and the shelter, as well as the vet school. Veterinary students working under supervision will conduct a variety of medical procedures such as spaying and neutering, treating wounds, repairing fractured bones and removing foreign objects, and the animals will return to the shelter once they have recovered. The school plans to expand the new surgical training program by seeking referrals from local veterinarians who have clients that can not afford a full-cost surgical procedure for the family pet.

"I think we're gaining a whole lot," says John Pascoe, executive associate dean and professor of surgery at UCD's vet school. "I think we'll get much better quality veterinarians in terms of surgical training, and it's good for the community as well. It's the right thing to do, and we think it will be a model for others around the country." UCD's new policy follows years of pressure from students, animal advocates and the public.

Source: *The Sacramento Bee*, November 10, 2003 (<http://www.sacbee.com/content/lifestyle/v-print/story/7760942p-8700024c.html>)

4. ECVAM Reorganizes to Address Government Mandates on Testing

The European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) plans to reorganize itself to better meet the challenges posed by new and emerging legislative mandates. The European cosmetics directive, for example, sets deadlines for the phasing out of animal testing of cosmetics products and ingredients, which puts pressure on cosmetics manufacturers to develop alternative methods of testing. Similarly, the emerging European proposals to generate toxicity profiles of existing chemicals will, when implemented, greatly increase the pace of chemical testing, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. To develop alternative methods to meet these challenges, the Italy-based alternatives centre will create teams to work on specific tests and to focus on broader issues. The particular areas of focus will include carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, systemic toxicity, topical toxicity, sensitization, toxicokinetics and ecotoxicology. Additionally, ECVAM will explore approaches such as high throughput screening, toxicogenomics, and quantitative structure-activity relationships or QSARs (the latter predicts toxicity based on chemical structure).

Source: *Chemical Regulation Reporter*, Volume 27, Number 39, Page 1179, October 6, 2003

5. University Teachers in India Given Humane Education Awards

Several university teachers in India have won the 2003 Humane Education Awards of the International Network for Humane Education or InterNICHE. The awards are given to candidates in India who are developing initiatives that can replace harmful animal use while improving life science education. The recently announced winners constitute the first of two award phases. The winners of the first and second phases will split a total prize of 10 lakh Rupees (US\$23,000 or 20,000 Euros), made possible with support from the Dutch anti-vivisection group Proefdiervrij.

The winners in the first phase include Dr. R. Raveendran of the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, who developed CD-ROM-based simulations of pharmacology experiments; Dr. R. M. Inbaraj of the Madras Christian College, who is creating a CD-ROM of animal dissections to be used for both undergraduate and graduate students; Dr. P.V.S. Kishore of the Nandamuri Taaraka Ramarao College of Veterinary Science, who is designing a CD-ROM, DVD and digital video of a buffalo calf dissection; and Drs. P. Hak, S. Bagchi and D. Chakrabarty of the Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, who are implementing cardiac and neuromuscular physiology alternatives that will help to replace animal use.

Sources: *InterNICHE* (www.interniche.org/news.html)

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