

Fifth Floor, Mrak Hall
University of California, Davis
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Request to Phase out Primate Testing at the UC Davis National Primate Research Center

Dear Chancellor May,

We are grateful for your attention on this important discussion. We are current students, alumni, and Davis community members and we do not approve of primate testing at UC Davis. UC Davis has one of the largest primate facilities in the country. More than 4,500 monkeys live on campus at the National Primate Research Center (NPRC) and are used in expensive and inhumane experiments. The UC Davis NPRC has a long history of primate deaths due to negligence and has compiled many violations from the United States Department of Agriculture, including 21 between 2014-2016¹. In January of this year, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) sued UC Davis after the NPRC failed to release adequate video and photo evidence of their primate experiments.

Chancellor May, monkeys are one of our closest relatives. They are social like us, are likely to experience similar emotions and capacity for suffering. At the UC Davis NPRC these monkeys are held in captivity outside their natural environments and are used as test subjects. Keeping these sentient animals confined in cages and isolated for extended periods of time is cruel as their natural predisposition is to travel in groups, groom and show affection often, and roam through miles of forested habitat. These monkeys can experience life-long psychological trauma from NPRC's experiments that study the effects of tobacco smoke inhalation, the effects of alcoholism on genes through generations, and the effects of isolation on brain chemistry.

In addition to welfare concerns, animal testing is expensive, arduous, and increasingly unnecessary. In 2014, a total of \$94 million dollars of tax payer money was used for Nonhuman Primate Resources². UC Davis can replace primate testing with research using human cell cultures, accelerated mass spectrometry, and computer modeling. The scientific community is already phasing out research on Chimpanzees, our closest genetic relative, in favor of these new methods³. There is also a bipartisan initiative in Congress to secure retirement for all primates, cats, and dogs in federal labs.⁴

We encourage UC Davis to transition to nonanimal research techniques and stop all primate testing. We have gathered over 13,300 supporters of Free Davis Primate's Change.org petition⁵ and request and welcome an audience with you during World Week for Animals in Laboratories, April 22nd to 26th. Please note that this letter is posted online at freedavisprimates.org and that we will be gathering and peacefully demonstrating at the April 24th Farmers Market. We request a response by April 12th, 2019 to freedavisprimates@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time Chancellor May.

¹ Asimov, Nanette. UC Davis under Investigation for Lab Animal Deaths. SF Gate. Oct, 2016.

² Harding, John. Nonhuman Primate Model Resources Funded by ORIP. National Institutes of Health. Jan 2015.

³ Conlee, K., Rowan, A. The Case for Phasing Out Experiments on Primates. The Hastings Center. 2012.

⁴ Goodman, J. Lawmakers Urge FDA to End All Primate Experiments. White Coat Waste Project. November, 2018.

⁵ UC Davis: Stop Cruel Primate Experiments. Change.org

Sincerely,

McKenna Maxwell, former Vice President of PEACE at UC Davis

Lindsay Rubin, Founder of Free Davis Primates and Vegans of Davis

Grace Amico, Free Davis Primates

Caroline Webb, Free Davis Primates

Tess Soper, Founder of PEACE at UC Davis

Juliana Novaes, PEACE at UC Davis

Iliana Zisman, PEACE at UC Davis

Emmanuelle Chicandard, PEACE at UC Davis

Jia Hui, PEACE at UC Davis

Anya McCann, COOL Cuisine

Jack Norris, Vegan Outreach

13,377 supporters of the [UC Davis: Stop Cruel Primate Experiments Change.org Petition](#)

And



Free Davis Primates



PEACE at UC Davis



Vegans of Davis



Vegan Outreach

<https://freedavisprimates.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ucdprimateprotest/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ucdavispeace/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VegansOfDavis>

<https://veganoutreach.org/>

<https://www.change.org/p/uc-davis-primate-research-center-ucd-stop-testing-on-primates>