



ANIMAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

A select number of researchers at the University of California engage in highly regulated research involving laboratory animals. Such research represents a small percentage of UC research overall, with the majority of this research involving zebra fish and mice.

The University of California supports research and faculty who conduct research using laboratory animals and has put in place strict regulations for conducting this research in a humane, lawful and responsible manner. UC strongly supports the exploration and implementation of alternatives to the use of laboratory animals in research.

Research involving the use of animals has contributed significantly to the discovery and development of critical scientific breakthroughs and medical therapies that improve human and animal health.

- **Benefit to Society:** Animal research can be an important step in determining whether a promising therapy might be safe for human use. Radiation therapy and other cancer treatments, the development of vaccines, organ transplantation, and many mental health treatments have all resulted in part from research involving laboratory animals.
- **Strictly Regulated:** Animal research is subject to strict federal and state regulation designed to ensure humane and ethical treatment of animals. Proposed research projects must undergo a rigorous review process; once approved, they are subject to ongoing and stringent oversight.

LABORATORY ANIMAL RESEARCH IS HIGHLY REGULATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Animal research at the University of California is highly regulated by comprehensive laws and regulations at the institutional, federal, state and local levels. Research programs at all UC campuses are regulated by the U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The applicable federal laws and regulations include the U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research and Training; The Animal Welfare Act; and, the USDA's Animal Welfare Regulations and Standards.

Research proposals undergo rigorous university review by each campus' Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), as required by both the Animal Welfare Act and the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, which set standards for cleanliness and use, including veterinary care and the use of painkillers for research animals. The USDA conducts unannounced visits to all registered research facilities at least once a year.

UC's systemwide policy on Animal Use Protocols (www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/10-15-84.html#att) outlines the university's firm adherence to all animal research regulations.

VIOLENCE AGAINST UC FACULTY STAFF IS ESCALATING

Acts of violence against UC faculty and staff – and their families – by anti-animal research extremists not only continue, but are increasing in frequency and severity. UC personnel continue to be targets of arson, bombings, vandalism, intimidation, harassment and other similar acts, both at work and at home. While UC unequivocally supports the civil and free expression of views, including those that oppose the use of animals in research, the University will not tolerate acts of violence and harassment.

Examples of recent incidents include:

- Firebombings at the homes of two UC Santa Cruz faculty members appear to be the latest in a series of incidents targeting scientists whose research involves animals. In one case, a firebomb ignited the front door of a faculty member's home,

filling the house with smoke. The faculty member, his wife and two children escaped on a ladder from a second-story window of the home. Around the same time, a vehicle parked in another UCSC faculty member's driveway was destroyed by a firebomb.

- On three occasions since June 2006, firebombs have also been left at or near the homes of UCLA faculty members who conduct or oversee research involving animals.
- UCSF researchers have been subject to death threats, and in one instance, a burning effigy was left on the front lawn of a faculty member's home.
- The home of one UCLA researcher sustained more than \$20,000 in damages after being flooded by animal extremists who inserted a garden hose into the house and left a note threatening to burn the house down next time.
- Wearing masks to conceal their identities, anti-animal research extremists have appeared at the homes of scientists in the middle of the night, used megaphones to shout threats, and vandalized property. In recent months, there have been more than 20 reports of damage to UC Berkeley researchers' homes, including broken windows and vandalized cars.
- In one recent attack, masked protesters disrupted a child's birthday party at the home of a UC Santa Cruz faculty member and confronted her husband at the door, striking him on the hand.

A partial list of incidents throughout the UC system can be found at: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/animalresearch

AB 2296 WOULD GIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT TOOLS TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS

California currently lacks sufficient legal deterrents and protections needed to end the escalating campaign of violence and intimidation by anti-animal research extremists. State legislation is needed to provide more comprehensive and effective protection of academic researchers, their families and homes.

AB 2296, legislation introduced by Assemblymember Gene Mullin (19th District-South San Francisco), would enhance the ability of state law enforcement and prosecutors to protect academic researchers and their families who are victims of threatening and destructive tactics employed by extremists, without jeopardizing legitimate and lawful expressions of free speech. AB 2296 would add criminal provisions to state law, as a counterpart to existing federal and state laws, for the commission of certain activities intended to chill or interfere with a researcher's academic freedom. The bill would:

- Declare that unlawful acts that threaten and intimidate researchers or their families at their personal residence are not protected by the First Amendment and are a direct threat to the academic researcher's constitutional right to academic freedom.
- Enact a new misdemeanor trespass law, making it a violation for any person to enter the residential real property of an academic researcher for the purpose of chilling or interfering with the researcher's academic freedom
- Define "academic researcher" as any person lawfully engaged in academic research who is a student, trainee or employee of UC, an accredited California community college, a campus of the California State University or a Western Association of Schools and Colleges accredited, degree-granting, nonprofit institution.
- Define "academic freedom" as the lawful performance, dissemination or publication of academic research or instruction.

The University of California strongly supports this legislation and urges the Legislature to pass AB 2296 immediately to ensure that researchers are protected and that California law enforcement has the necessary tools to do their job.

The legislation passed the Senate on August 22, 2008, and has been sent to the Assembly for concurrence. Action on the legislation can be monitored at http://info.sen.ca.gov/cgi-bin/pagequery?type=sen_bilinfo&site=sen&title=Bill+Information

President Yudof statement: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/18342

UC Chancellors' statement: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/article/16956