



November 3, 2009

Rick Marolt
1015 Lawrence Street
Madison, WI 53715-2040

Dear Mr. Marolt:

Thank you for your letter dated September 16. As I wrote to you earlier, the All-Campus Animal Care and Use Committee is the body at UW-Madison which, among other things, is responsible for ensuring that the treatment of animals used in teaching, research and outreach is consistent with ethical and scientific norms. I understand that your August 7 meeting with the AC-ACUC did not provide you with the outcome you sought. I also realize that you are disappointed that the committee did not formally take up your proposal in its deliberations, even though you were told your proposal had been rejected by the committee. Accordingly, I have requested that the AC-ACUC formally discuss your proposal, and provide you with a formal written response.

However, please let me be perfectly clear. I strongly support the dedicated University staff and students who engage in scholarly research with animals, including those who conduct research with non-human primates. The general consensus within the scientific community is that research with non-human primates, when properly conducted, is consistent with scientific and ethical norms. This research is highly regulated by the federal government to ensure the welfare of the animals, to the maximum degree possible in light of the research aims. The research aims at the university are clear -- understanding the causes and developing treatments for the most devastating of human medical conditions. The debate you seek to initiate is not likely to plough new ground, would be extremely divisive, and, as far as I can tell, does not have the support of a significant portion of the campus community. Moreover, this debate is not specific to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or to the State of Wisconsin. To the extent continued debate on this subject is merited, it should be pursued at the national level. For these reasons, I do not support your request that a separate campus body be established and charged with second-guessing the ethics of this important research.

Sincerely,


Carolyn "Biddy" Martin
Chancellor

Office of the Chancellor

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