

November 24, 2020

Franziska Grieder, DVM, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs  
National Institutes of Health  
One Democracy Plaza, Suite 902  
6701 Democracy Boulevard, MSC 4877  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4874  
Via email: franziska.grieder@nih.gov

Dear Dr. Grieder,

On behalf of Rise for Animals (Rise; formerly the New England Anti-Vivisection Society), I am writing to relay our concern regarding troubling evidence of animal suffering taking place at the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and to respectfully ask that you reduce annual funding for nonhuman primate research at the ONPRC and commit to increasing funding for the development of non-animal research methods.

## **Document We Reviewed**

In formulating the recommendation below, Rise reviewed the media release *OHSU Grieves Loss of Two Nonhuman Primates*, which was made available for public inspection on August 28, 2020 by OHSU.

## **Finding: OHSU Accidentally Killed Two Nonhuman Primates**

The document we reviewed reveals that on August 13, 2020, an animal care technician at OHSU put a cage in the cage wash without checking to ensure every animal was removed. Two nonhuman primates were still in the cage. By the time the technician realized they were still in the cage, one primate had already died. The second primate had to be euthanized. Ultimately, two nonhuman primates died due to human error and inattention.

## **Request: Reduce Primate Research Funding & Increase Funding for Non-Animal Methods**

While these deaths were unintended, they should not be brushed off and addressed only through (1) OHSU's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee conducting an internal investigation; and (2) OHSU Chief Research Officer Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D., commissioning an independent, external review committee to more broadly examine hiring, training, safety and operations in

animal care. Instead, this failure to provide adequate care—at a National Primate Research Center—resulting in the deaths of two individuals should be addressed more seriously by the Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP). As such, I respectfully request that ORIP consider reducing annual funding for nonhuman primate research at the ONPRC and commit to increasing funding for the development of non-animal research methods.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Herschler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathan Herschler  
Executive Director