

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

Division of Research

October 7, 2020

Nathan Hershler
Executive Director
Rise for Animals
333 Washington Street – Suite 850
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Re: University of Houston Research

Dear Mr. Hershler:

I am responding to your September 29, 2020 letter sent to President Khator regarding Dr. Das' research on non-human primates, research that serves to address one of the leading causes of blindness in children. The faculty, staff and administration of the University of Houston care deeply about all animals used in research and take seriously our responsibility as a steward of the animals. We strive to not only fulfill all legal requirements that govern the use of animals in teaching our students, but to exceed those requirements, while holding ourselves to the highest ethical standards of animal care. The University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) reviews all aspects of animal use, including whether feasible alternatives exist, to confirm that the guiding principles underlying humane care and use have been duly considered. Adhering to these standards is more than a legal obligation for us. We treat all animals used in research humanely and with concern for their wellbeing because it is the right thing to do. Without addressing specific misstatements in your letter, please know the animals described in your letter are, in fact, cared for and treated humanely.

Sincerely,



Amr Elnashai, FREng
Vice Chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer, UH System
Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, UH

CC: Grants Management Specialist: Pamela Bobbitt
Program Official: Houmam H. Araj