

<http://www.ucsf.edu/its/listserv/stanglantz-l/0672.html>

FW: UC Regents Seek Compromise on Tobacco Industry Research Funding

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)] [[More options](#)]
- *Related messages:* [[Next message](#)] [[Previous message](#)]

From: Glantz, Stanton A <glantz@MEDICINE.UCSF.EDU>

Date: Mon Jul 23 2007 - 07:40:13 PDT

FYI

From: kim@cyanonline.org [mailto:kim@cyanonline.org]

Sent: Thu 7/19/2007 9:56 AM

To: Joel Moskowitz

Cc: hammondk@berkeley.edu; Balmes, John; pab@berkeley.edu

Subject: RE: UC Regents Seek Compromise on Tobacco Industry Research Funding

Good Morning,

Yesterday the Regents agreed to delay the vote on RE89 - the policy which would prohibit tobacco industry funding of research at UC. At this point, it is not clear if the Regents will actually vote on RE89 or if they will reach a compromise with the Office of the President and the Academic Senate which would replace RE89.

I attended the meeting at UCSB yesterday and spoke in favor of RE89. Unfortunately, many of the Regents were not open to discussion on this issue. Sharon Eubanks, a former DOJ lawyer involved with the RICO case gave a compelling argument in favor of RE89. While I felt she argued a strong case for RE89, there were a number of Regents who were not willing to listen to her arguments and justification. Ms. Eubanks had some rather tough questions from the Chair of the Academic Senate which she handled well. At one point, the debate between the Chair of the Senate and Ms. Eubanks was so heated, the Chair of the Finance Committee had to stop the debate and end the conversation on RE89.

Based on the discussion from yesterday and what we have heard from individual Regents, the two Regents working on this issue are trying to find a compromise with OP and the Senate. From what I have been told, the President is not willing to make much of a compromise and we don't know how far our Regents will go to compromise with the President or the Senate. However, on a positive note, it looks like something will happen on this issue even if RE89 does not pass.

Even though it has taken us awhile to get to this point, we have been extremely successful in keeping this debate alive at UC. There are now 4 Regents who strongly support this issue and will not let the issue die until UC has made some change regarding tobacco industry funding. At

this time, we don't know what that change is but we do know there will be change.

Please note, I am continually adding all media (stories, editorials, etc.) to our website at www.academic-integrity.com <<http://www.academic-integrity.com/>> on the "In the News" page. If you would like more specifics on yesterday's meeting, please let me know and I would be happy to share with you the details from the debate, what Regents are supportive or against RE89, and what Ms. Eubanks shared with the Regents.

Finally, please note that there are some Regents that are keeping themselves updated on active industry grants at UC. There is currently a \$6 million grant a UCLA called the Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center. I know a little bit about the grant and their area of focus as well as the grant's PI. This particular grant is causing some concern because of the nature of the grant and we, including the AG's Office, are looking into it further. Sadly, at yesterday's meeting, Regent Allen asked Vice Provost Hume what this particular grant was looking at and the Vice Provost simply said, "based on the name of the project, I am assuming they are studying cessation." Minutes later the President said they are watching all of the tobacco funded grants and are aware of what they are studying. As you can see, there is a lot of confusion and misunderstanding on this issue at the Regental level and within OP.

The Regents said they will discuss this issue again in September. The September meeting is scheduled to be held at UC Davis.

Again, please don't hesitate in contacting me if you would like more specifics.

Sincerely,

Kim

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<http://www.ucsf.edu/its/listserv/stanglantz-l/0693.html>

Tobacco company's research grant to UCLA raises suspicions

- **This message:** [[Message body](#)] [[More options](#)]
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From: Glantz, Stanton A <glantz@MEDICINE.UCSF.EDU>

Date: Thu Sep 20 2007 - 08:35:31 PDT

Tobacco company's research grant to UCLA raises suspicions

Sabin Russell, Chronicle Medical Writer <<mailto:srussell@sfnchronicle.com>>

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Tobacco industry critics are accusing UCLA of conducting "secret" research for cigarette-maker Philip Morris after the state-run university made public a heavily censored copy of the paperwork used to win a \$6 million grant from the company.

Portions of the 200-page grant application to Philip Morris were sent to the California Youth Advocacy Network on Friday in response to a public records act request made in July.

The grant, which was awarded in November, pays \$2 million a year over three years to the UCLA Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center to conduct brain scans and other studies using lab animals and young smokers ages 14-21.

With more than half its pages either missing or redacted, the grant application reveals little about the nature of the research.

For example, in the section "Specific Aims," the document released by UCLA states that "The goal of this project is to develop a"

Missing is a four- to five-line explanation of what that goal might be.

"I am flabbergasted," said Stanton Glantz, a UCSF professor and tobacco industry critic. "If they are so ashamed of what they are doing that they have to hide it, they shouldn't be doing it."

Because the grant application leaves out the names of the researchers involved, the nature of the experiments to be conducted, and even a description of the hypotheses being tested, Glantz said it amounts to secret research being conducted on behalf of Philip Morris by the public university.

The project is being led by Edythe London, a prominent neuropharmacologist who specializes in the use of MRI and PET scans to study the brains of people with substance abuse problems. She has had research funded by Philip Morris in the past, according to the tobacco company.

UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton said London would not be available for comment. He said the university's comments would be limited to the text of a letter sent with the redacted document by campus counsel Patricia Jasper to the California Youth Advocacy Network.

In that letter, Jasper said the materials would not include portions of the grant "relating to animal research, information that could identify the researchers/staff, and proprietary information relating to experimental design, scientific hypotheses, and preliminary ... data."

Jasper said release of similar information related to animal studies had recently "led to harassment of and attacks against our faculty."

She said the material provided included "extensive descriptions of those portions of the research that do not involve the use of animals."

There are, in fact, 91 pages that describe a third arm of the study involving animal research. Those pages are left out entirely from the released copy of the 200-page grant application.

Also left out or redacted are the names of researchers, administrators, doctors and technicians who will share at least \$835,000 a year in salaries, the names of local institutions and clinics - with the exception of the Los Angeles County Clinic - listed as "community partners" in the program, and the names and locations of 10 sites where the young smokers would be recruited to join the study. Additionally, the descriptions of behavioral tests that will be used to evaluate risk taking among the young volunteers are omitted.

The released portions of the document describe two related studies of young smokers, ages 14-21. However, the descriptions of these two projects are heavily redacted.

One project will enroll 200 young smokers in a "stepped approach" to adolescent smoking cessation treatment. The application notes that no drug has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat adolescents who are nicotine dependent. Some of the volunteers will apparently be assigned to take a drug that might help them stop smoking, but the name of that drug has been redacted.

A second project involving 40 adolescent smokers and 40 adolescent nonsmokers will examine "underlying difference in brain structure and function that contribute" to teen smoking. The project will involve MRI brain scans of the participants, who will also volunteer samples of their DNA.

But the censors blanked out any description of the hypotheses the researchers intend to test, although the document makes clear that researchers are zeroing in on regions in the front of the brain that are associated with inhibition or risk taking.

At \$6 million, the grant is by far the largest from a tobacco company to University of California researchers.

Kimberlee Homer Vagadori, coordinator of college projects for the California Youth Advocacy Network, had been trying to get a copy of the proposal since January. Her group in Sacramento, which is funded primarily by cigarette taxes, promotes tobacco-free programs for people in high schools, colleges and the military.

She had been forewarned that the document would not include information on animal studies, but she was not prepared for the extent of the redactions. "I was completely shocked," she said.

Vagadori said that if Philip Morris had tried to conduct this kind of research on adolescents on its own, the tobacco company would be chastised for experimenting on young people. "This is research on how youths get addicted to their products," she said. "They aren't supposed to be targeting youth."

Philip Morris USA spokesman Bill Phelps said the purpose of the grant was to "increase scientific understanding in the field of adolescent tobacco use, addiction and cessation." He said that the company encourages its grantees to publish their findings in peer reviewed journals. "We have no right to direct or influence how that research is conducted," he added.

-- Go to sfgate.com/blogs/localnews to read excerpts of the redacted UCLA document.

E-mail Sabin Russell at srussell@sfchronicle.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/09/20/BAUSS8U72.DTL>

This article appeared on page B - 2 of the San Francisco Chronicle
Received on Thu Sep 20 08:38:26 2007

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)]
- *Next message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "FW: See portions of UCLA's grant application to Philip Morris"](#)
- *Previous message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "Inside Higher Ed story on UC and Tobacco"](#)
- *Contemporary messages sorted:* [[By Date](#)] [[By Thread](#)] [[By Subject](#)] [[By Author](#)]
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<http://www.ucsf.edu/its/listserv/stanglantz-l/0694.html>

FW: See portions of UCLA's grant application to Philip Morris

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)] [[More options](#)]
- *Related messages:* [[Next message](#)] [[Previous message](#)]

From: Glantz, Stanton A <glantz@MEDICINE.UCSF.EDU>
Date: Thu Sep 20 2007 - 13:46:28 PDT

See portions of UCLA's grant application to Philip Morris

Marcus Chan, SF Chronicle, Sep 19, 2007

Chronicle reporter Sabin Russell wrote a story about how tobacco industry critics are accusing UCLA of conducting "secret" research for cigarette maker Philip Morris after the state-run university made public a heavily censored copy of the paperwork used to win a \$6 million grant from the company.

Portions of the 200-page grant application to Philip Morris were sent to the California Youth Advocacy Network on Friday in response to a public records act request made in July. The grant, which was awarded in November, pays \$2 million a year over three years to the UCLA Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center to conduct brain scans and other studies using laboratory animals and young smokers aged 14-21.

With more than half its pages either missing or redacted, the grant application reveals little about the nature of the research. Click the link below to see a selection of pages released by UCLA.

<http://cdn.sfgate.com/blogs/sounds/sfgate/chroncast/2007/09/19/Smoking.pdf> (PDF - 0.43 MB)

Here's a quick rundown of what you'll find (or not find):

Cover page -- Right from the start, UCLA blanks out the names of the key scientists involved in the research.

Page 112 -- Here is one of many pages that describe the scientists who will be running the \$6 million project, but their names, and any information that might lead someone to deduce who they are, are blanked out.

Page 117 -- This would appear to be a helpful page describing the Specific Aims of the research, but it turns out, the goal of the project is a secret. So apparently is the pilot project, described below, but reduced to a pilot hole.

Page 121 -- The UCLA project will clearly involve providing to teen volunteers a drug that might help them break their smoking addiction. We learn there is something surprising about these drugs, but they won't tell us what it is.

Page 124 -- Here we are told that the program is guided by something the public has no right to know about -- the guide or the guiding principle has been redacted.

Page 126 -- There are partners in the community involved in this research, but their names, with the exception of the LA County clinic, are not to be revealed.

Page 130 -- Who's in, and who's out, of this study. You have to guess.

Page 141 -- UCLA told the California Youth Advocacy Network that they would not release the hypotheses they are testing in the lab, and here, we see they mean it.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/localnews/author?blogid=37&auth=21>

Received on Thu Sep 20 13:47:43 2007

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)]
- *Next message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "The Cost of Caution: Tobacco Industry Political Influence and Tobacco Policy Making in Oregon 1997-2007 available at Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education"](#)
- *Previous message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "Tobacco company's research grant to UCLA raises suspicions"](#)
- *Contemporary messages sorted:* [[By Date](#)] [[By Thread](#)] [[By Subject](#)] [[By Author](#)] [[By messages with attachments](#)]

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<http://www.ucsf.edu/its/listserv/stanglantz-l/0696.html>

FW: University of California will continue to take tobacco money

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)] [[More options](#)]
- *Related messages:* [[Next message](#)] [[Previous message](#)]

From: Glantz, Stanton A <glantz@MEDICINE.UCSF.EDU>

Date: Sat Sep 22 2007 - 07:54:16 PDT

FYI

From: Kimberlee Homer [mailto:kim@cyanonline.org]

Sent: Fri 9/21/2007 3:32 PM

To: kim@cyanonline.org

Subject: University of California will continue to take tobacco money

Hello,

Below is an update from the Regents meeting yesterday regarding RE89 - the proposed policy to deny tobacco industry funding of research at UC. Additionally, there is information at the end of this message on ways you can let your voice be heard on this issue. Please contact me if you would like specifics on what happened at the meeting or what is happening with UCLA in regards to the Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center (funded by Philip Morris). Please note, it is extremely important that this issue is kept in the press. Regent Blum said the University would experience backlash in the press because of their vote....let's make sure that happens!

RE89 Vote

Yesterday afternoon the Regents adopted a watered down version of RE89. The alternative policy that was adopted allows researchers to accept tobacco industry funding, but only after their research proposal has been reviewed and approved by a scientific-review committee. Unfortunately, the policy adopted by the Regents does not give authority back to individual academic units to adopt policies denying funding from a particular source. The Regents had a heated debate on this issue and, in the end, the academic freedom argument made by the Academic Senate won.

UCLA's Secret Research

Even though RE89 is no longer an agenda item for the Regents, the issue of tobacco industry funding at UC is still a very important issue. In September 2006, UCLA accepted a \$6 million grant from Philip Morris to understand the biological factors that contribute to the initiation and maintenance of teen smoking. This grant has been funded for a year, however, there is little to no information available to the public about what UCLA is studying. On Thursday, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote a story about the struggles I have had in obtaining a copy of this grant. As a result of the story in the Chronicle, UCLA has contacted me and said I am welcome to speak with the Vice Chancellor and ask him any questions I have in regards to the grant. However, there has been no follow-up response on providing me with a full copy of the grant. I have turned down the opportunity to have a private conversation with UCLA as I do not believe that such a conversation will result in the public gaining access to the proposal which Philip Morris already has.

Opportunities to Speak Out on this Issue!

As I mentioned, tobacco funding is still a very important issue at UC. Over the last day, there have been some great and not-so-great articles in California papers on the tobacco issue. The great stories have been in the Chronicle. The not-so-great story was an op-ed in the Sacramento Bee by Thomas Jue (a researcher who just concluded a Philip Morris grant). Please take a minute of your time to submit an online comment to any of the stories. All you have to do is click on one (or more!) of the links below to submit a comment online. Additionally, write a letter to the editor of the Chronicle applauding them for revealing the "secret" Philip Morris study at UCLA or a letter to the editor of any paper questioning why UC is continuing to take money from tobacco companies.

SF Chronicle Story on RE89 <<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/09/21/BAA0SAMPN.DTL&hw=uc+tobacco&sn=002&sc=814>>

SF Chronicle Story on UCLA's Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center
<<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/09/20/BAUSS8U72.DTL&hw=ucla+tobacco&sn=002&sc=643>>

SF Chronicle Blog with portions of UCLA grant <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfgate/detail?blogid=37&entry_id=20450>

Sacramento Bee Op-Ed by a tobacco-funded researcher
<<http://www.sacbee.com/110/story/388486.html>>

Our website will be updated with all the links to recent media coverage of RE89, the UCLA grant, and any new information related to the recent developments on this issue shortly. In the mean time, the website continues to have useful talking points and important research on this subject that may be useful in drafting a letter to the editor (if necessary). The information can be found at www.academic-integrity.com <<http://www.academic-integrity.com/>> . Or, if it is easier, please contact me and I am more than happy to assist in drafting letters to the editor and op-eds.

Thanks for your support on this issue!!

Take care,

Kim

Kimberlee Homer Vagadori

College Project Coordinator

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Received on Sat Sep 22 08:16:19 2007

- **This message:** [[Message body](#)]
- **Next message:** [Glantz, Stanton A: "Tobacco Control Researcher Position with Stan Glantz at UCSF"](#)
- **Previous message:** [Glantz, Stanton A: "The Cost of Caution: Tobacco Industry Political Influence and Tobacco Policy Making in Oregon 1997-2007 available at Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education"](#)

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<http://www.ucsf.edu/its/listserv/stanglantz-l/0702.html>

Take a loot at the secret UCLA project on nicotine addiction in kids funded by PM

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)] [[More options](#)]
- *Related messages:* [[Next message](#)] [[Previous message](#)]

From: Glantz, Stanton A <glantz@MEDICINE.UCSF.EDU>

Date: Sat Sep 29 2007 - 16:32:08 PDT

You can see what UCLA made "public" by clicking on the link in the box on the right side of www.academic-integrity.com.

I still find this level of secrecy shocking.

Received on Sat Sep 29 16:34:37 2007

- *This message:* [[Message body](#)]
- *Next message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "More Hollywood Studios Say 'No Smoking' - New York Times"](#)
- *Previous message:* [Glantz, Stanton A: "Endotoxins in tobacco smoke: Shifting tobacco industry positions"](#)
- *Contemporary messages sorted:* [[By Date](#)] [[By Thread](#)] [[By Subject](#)] [[By Author](#)]
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[The 2007 National Conference on Tobacco or Health](http://www.tobaccocontrolconference.org/2009/) or
<http://www.tobaccocontrolconference.org/2009/>

<http://ncth.confex.com/ncth/2007/techprogram/MEETING.HTM>
2007 NCTOH Presentation Archive

<http://ncth.confex.com/ncth/2007/techprogram/P14258.HTM>

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Exhibit Hall

Defending Academic Integrity: Tobacco Industry Funded Research and Universities

Kimberlee Homer Vagadori, BA, California Youth Advocacy Network, kim@cyanonline.org,
Stanton Glantz, BS MS PhD, University of California, San Francisco, Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, glantz@medicine.ucsf.edu, **Marcia Brown-Machen, MPH**, City of Berkeley, Public Health Division, mbrown-machen@ci.berkeley.ca.us.

Learning Objectives: Identify legal evidence supporting institutional policies that deny tobacco industry funding for research. Identify academic research that explains how and why the tobacco industry funds research to improve their public corporate image and create public confusion. Describe effective advocacy efforts to support academic policies that deny research funding from tobacco companies.

Audience: Tobacco control professionals working with universities, voluntary health organizations that fund tobacco-related research, university faculty members, and college students.

Key Points: The tobacco industry has a 50 year history of manipulating universities to promote confusion about the science of smoking and passive smoking. Based on academic research and legal evidence, faculty and administrators at leading universities in the United States and around the world have made the decision to no longer accept tobacco industry funding for research. Presenters will describe: how and why the tobacco industry funds academic research; illustrate how tobacco companies are different from other funding sources; and explain how the tobacco industry stands foursquare against the principles of academic freedom. The information presented was obtained through academic research and the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations findings.

Learning Objectives: This session will include presentations by university faculty and public health advocates who are working on this issue at the University of California (UC). Information will be presented on: how and why the tobacco industry funds academic research; arguments in

favor of institutional policies to deny funding from this particular source; arguments against policies denying funding from a particular source; and information about the advocacy efforts at UC and other leading institutions.

Benefits: Participants will benefit from the relevant experience as well as the extensive research of faculty and public health advocates who have been working to rid UC of tobacco industry funding of research for over seven years.

Related Web Pages:

www.academic-integrity.com

www.ucsf.edu/senate/townhallmeeting/index.html

See more of [Posters - Public Policy and Advocacy Strategies](#)

See more of [Public Policy and Advocacy Strategies](#)

American Legacy Foundation [PPT]

http://ncth.confex.com/recording/ncth/2007/pps/free/4db77adf5df9ff0d3caf5cafe28f496/paper15384_1.pps

The University of California and Tobacco Funding: An Update [PPT]

Michael K. Ong, PhD

http://ncth.confex.com/recording/ncth/2007/pps/free/4db77adf5df9ff0d3caf5cafe28f496/paper15384_3.pps

North American Animal Liberation Press Office

Communiqué from ALF activists
Date: October 25, 2007
Institution targeted: UCLA Vivisectors

Received Anonymously

**ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT STRIKES UCLA VIVISECTION
WATERFRONT PROPERTY IN BEVERLY HILLS FOR SALE!**

Edythe London, your job as administrator of the UCLA center that addicts primates to methamphetamines is dispicable. You appear to make all of the sick perverted vivisectors who addict primates to meth possible. Have you ever even witnessed the innocent monkeys that your mad scientists have addicted to methamphetamines as they convulse throughtout excruciating withdrawl symptoms?

You may have the privilege of coordinating all of this pain and suffering from a slight distance, but as people who act out of conscience we will not allow you to simply lurk in the shawdows of UCLA's labs of torture.

You are now in the spotlight of justice. Your address at _____ in Beverly Hills is now publicized for all to see. Until we see the end of primate vivisection at UCLA we will remind you of our presence. Push them to stop Edythe or we keep pushing. We never back down. We always win.

Here's how we get started. We found your million dollar house in Beverly Hills on the windy night of Saturday October 20, we discovered you weren't home so we snuck around to your backyard. First we effectively clogged the intake drain of your pool pump. It probably ran dry for a couple of hours and burned itself out. If it didn't happen, wait for it. It will. Next we smashed a window and inserted your garden hose, turned on to full blast of course. Bet you were surprized when you came home. Edythe do you have flood insurance?

One more thing Edythe, water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires.It would have been just as easy to burn your house down Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time.

NAALPO
6320 Canoga Avenue #1500
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
ph: 818.227.5022
fax: 818.227-5099

North American Animal Liberation Press Office

For Immediate Release
October 29, 2007

Sabotage at Residence of UCLA Vivisector Edythe London Targeted for Addicting Animals to Nicotine, Methamphetamines

Los Angeles- Primate Vivisector Edythe London was added to the roster of animal abusers at UCLA targeted by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) for her role in torturing non-human animals to death in outdated and unnecessary experiments. In an anonymous communique received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, the ALF claimed to target London for her sadistic procedures addicting non-human primates to methamphetamine; she has also published data on primate addiction to nicotine, and addicting baby lambs to cocaine.

The communique claims London's Beverly Hills home at _____ had a window broken and was flooded by a garden hose. It reads in part: *"One more thing Edythe, water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires. It would have been just as easy to burn your house down Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time. We will not stop until UCLA discontinues its primate vivisection programe."* The entire communique is posted [here](#).

In an article last month in San Francisco Gate, London was also noted to be conducting secret experiments at UCLA on adolescent children smoking cigarettes, funded by a \$6 million dollar grant from Phillip Morris. Attempts to obtain more information by that periodical were met with documents so heavily redacted by UCLA that they were useless; London and UCLA have both refused to comment.

London, a pharmacologist, has admitted publicly that her nicotine research on animals demonstrated there was so much inter-species variation in drug receptors, that no definitive statement could be made with regards to human effects of the drug.

Press Officer Jerry Vlasak, MD states: "London's research is a colossal waste of taxpayer money, and soliciting money from industry groups to study their retail products is considered unethical by most physicians interested in research that might help their patients. Of course, not being a clinician, London appears to have no interest in helping people, but instead derives pleasure in killing animals to further her own personal goals of academic and monetary enrichment. Why the people of California allow this abuse to continue at their expense is truly a mystery to me."

In recent months, activists picketing against UCLA primate vivisection have met with unconstitutional harassment by John Adams, a captain of the UCLA campus police; a lawsuit is pending in that matter. Underground organizations such as the ALF have stepped in when legal means of redress have been squelched. John Adams and his heavy-handed police tactics appear to be fueling the fire of resistance because of his

inappropriate and illegal behaviors against legal activists; historically, when activists at demonstrations are persecuted, those watching from the sidelines in frustration find themselves intervening.

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<http://www.newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/statement-of-ucla-chancellor-gene-40060.aspx>

UCLA News

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media@support.ucla.edu

Statement of UCLA Chancellor Gene Block regarding animal rights extremists

By
Chancellor Gene Block
10/29/2007 1:10:34 PM

In a press release today, an animal-rights extremist group claimed responsibility for the recent vandalism at the home of a UCLA professor who conducts research involving the use of laboratory animals. The group, which calls itself the Animal Liberation Front, also made ominous threats against the professor.

I condemn in the strongest possible terms this deplorable and illegal act of extreme vandalism, which resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in damage, and I reiterate the university's steadfast commitment to the legal use of animals in research to benefit society. At UCLA, we are determined to expose and seek prosecution of extremists intent on harming people who have devoted their careers to conducting research that ultimately enhances or even saves lives.

For several years, members of the UCLA faculty and administration have been subjected to violence, harassment and other forms of intimidation by extremists. This has included the attempted firebombings of a private residence and a vehicle, which are being investigated by the FBI as acts of domestic terrorism, as well as threatening phone calls, e-mails, and property trespass and damage. Such tactics are beyond contemptible, have no place in a civilized society and are completely unacceptable methods to achieve a political or policy goal.

All research involving laboratory animals at UCLA is conducted in compliance with stringent and multiple federal laws and university policies intended to ensure humane care. This research has enhanced understanding of how the human body functions and has led to the development of lifesaving procedures and medicines, including radiation therapy and other cancer treatments, open-heart surgery, mental health treatments, and vaccines. The faculty member whose home was recently vandalized conducts groundbreaking research aimed at better understanding and treating nicotine and methamphetamine addiction and other neuropsychiatric disorders that afflict millions of people.

Like many UCLA professors who have been targeted, this faculty member's research has been the subject of public records requests by public interest groups as well as animal rights extremists. It is unfortunate that this information is being utilized by animal rights extremists to identify UCLA faculty members and then to harass them and threaten their lives.

UCLA, the FBI and various law enforcement units are offering a \$170,000 reward for information leading to the conviction and arrest of those responsible for the attempted firebombings. I encourage parties with information about the criminal activities of animal rights extremists, including this latest despicable action, to contact the FBI at (310) 477-6565.

Phil Hampton,
310-206-1460
phampton@support.ucla.edu
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<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/la-me-animal30oct30,1,2338668.story>

From the Los Angeles Times

Animal rights group says it flooded house

Underground organization claims responsibility for vandalizing home of UCLA professor who conducts research on monkeys.

By Larry Gordon
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

October 30, 2007

An animal rights group has claimed responsibility for flooding the Westside home of a UCLA professor who uses lab monkeys in research on nicotine addiction.

An FBI spokeswoman said Monday that the agency is investigating the claim that the Animal Liberation Front used a garden hose to flood the house of professor Edythe London on Oct. 20 in an attempt to stop her animal experiments.

The FBI, along with UCLA and Los Angeles police, are treating the vandalism as a case of domestic terrorism and are probing possible ties to a June incident in which an incendiary device was lighted, but did not explode, next to a car at the home of a UCLA eye disease researcher, according to FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller.

In a press release distributed to the media Monday, an underground entity identifying itself as the Animal Liberation Front said it broke a window at London's house and flooded the residence with a hose. The announcement said the group considered starting a fire there, but did not want to risk igniting brush fires that might have harmed animals "human and non-human."

UCLA officials said the flooding caused between \$20,000 and \$40,000 in damage. London could not be reached for comment.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block issued a statement Monday condemning what he described as a "deplorable and illegal act of extreme vandalism," and said the university would not retreat from the legal use of animals in research that can benefit society. He insisted that all UCLA research complies with federal laws to ensure humane care of lab animals.

The group's claim was posted by a Woodland Hills-based website called the North American Animal Liberation Press Office. Jerry Vlasak, a trauma surgeon who is an activist in that press office and who protests against animal euthanasia at animal shelters, declined to say how he received the information about the vandalism and said he did not know the responsible parties.

But Vlasak said Monday that he sent the communique to the media so the incident would "not be dismissed as a random act of violence." He said he condones the flooding at London's house "if it is helpful to get her to stop torturing innocent animals."

About a year ago, Santa Monica police and federal agents raided Vlasak's Agoura Hills house as part of an investigation into the Animal Liberation Front, which law enforcement officials described as a shadowy network that has sabotaged animal research labs, firebombed properties and made numerous death threats.

Authorities said Monday that Vlasak has not been charged with any crimes stemming from that investigation. FBI spokeswoman Eimiller said she could not confirm or deny whether the North American Animal Liberation Press Office is being investigated in the flooding and previous threats against UCLA professors.

Last year, Vlasak was convicted of "targeted protesting" -- in violation of a Los Angeles municipal ordinance -- for demonstrating against euthanasia at the home of a Department of Animal Services employee. He was sentenced to 30 days' electronic monitoring and is appealing the ruling.

Authorities are still offering \$170,000 in rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for two previous UCLA-related incidents for which animal rights groups claimed credit.

An incendiary device was lighted but did not ignite June 24 next to a car parked at the Westside home of Dr. Arthur Rosenbaum, chief of pediatric ophthalmology at UCLA's Jules Stein Eye Institute. A similar incident occurred last year at a Bel-Air house, which apparently was targeted by mistake instead of the house of a UCLA researcher who lived nearby.

London, who has been at UCLA since 1999, is a professor in two departments at the David Geffen School of Medicine: Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, and Molecular & Medical Pharmacology. Her work on nicotine and methamphetamine addictions has included experiments on vervet monkeys. Plans for an upcoming study call for some of the monkeys to be ultimately killed and autopsied, according to the school.

According to Block's statement, London conducts "groundbreaking research aimed at better understanding and treating nicotine and methamphetamine addiction and other neuropsychiatric disorders that afflict millions of people." A university website said her research group pioneered the use of positron emission tomography, an imaging tool known as PET scanning, to show a relationship between drug craving and activity in brain regions that link memory with emotion.

larry.gordon@latimes.com

UCLA Daily Bruin

<http://www.dailybruin.ucla.edu/news/2007/oct/30/activists-flood-professors-home/>

Activists flood professor's home

By [Edward Truong](#)

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

The activist group Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the flooding of UCLA Professor Edythe London's Beverly Hills home on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office Web site, an organization that acts as a press outlet for several animal rights activists groups, released a statement on behalf of the Animal Liberation Front in which ALF accuses London of "addicting non-human primates to methamphetamine" and "addicting baby lambs to cocaine."

In a separate press release published on the Web site, anonymous ALF authors wrote that they broke one of her windows and used a garden hose to flood her home, but their original plan involved arson.

"Water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires," the statement read.

UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton said London was unavailable for comment.

Chancellor Gene Block released a statement condemning the act of vandalism, calling it "deplorable."

He added that all animal research at UCLA complies with both federal law and university policy and research such as London's work is important in enhancing understanding and improving treatment on neuropsychiatric disorders.

Animal rights activists have targeted UCLA faculty and staff over the years, including a recent firebombing attempt on Professor Arthur Rosenbaum's car on June 24.

"Such tactics are beyond contemptible, have no place in a civilized society and are completely unacceptable methods to achieve a political or policy goal," Block said in the statement.

FBI officials continue to investigate the June incident, but were unavailable for comment on Monday.

Jerry Vlasak, a spokesman for the North American Animal Liberation Press Office, said his organization has no affiliation with the Animal Liberation Front, and historically law enforcement officials have been unable to identify and arrest responsible parties.

“They would love to get their grubby little hands on the Animal Liberation Front,” he said.

He added that his group was “absolutely in support” of actions such as those against London as a means to publicize the group’s message that they believe the animal research done in places such as UCLA are inhumane.

“Most people in the general public, when confronted with this information, are horrified,” he said. “It’s definitely important to get the message out.”

Vlasak said such events tend to occur after efforts in “above-ground activism” are unsuccessful.

“When people get frustrated ... people feel the need to take it to another level,” he said.

A \$170,000 reward is being offered by the university, FBI and other officials in exchange for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the June firebombings. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the FBI at (310) 477-6565.

<http://www.the-scientist.com/blog/display/53812/>

Animal rights group targets neuroscientist

Posted by [Alla Katsnelson](#)

[Entry posted at 31st October 2007 07:39 PM GMT]

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An animal rights group says it vandalized the home of a Los Angeles neuroscientist, adding yet another incident to a string of recent attacks on UCLA researchers. The incident is being investigated by the FBI and local authorities.

An anonymous [statement](#) posted on the Web site of the North American Animal Liberation Press Office described in detail how the perpetrators, members of the Animal Liberation Front, broke into the Beverly Hills house of [Edythe London](#), a researcher at UCLA who has investigated how [addiction](#) influences behavior with [experiments](#) in monkeys. The interlopers smashed a window and flooded the home with a garden hose. UCLA officials [told](#) the *Los Angeles Times* that the flooding had caused between \$20,000 and \$40,000 of damage.

A written [statement](#) by UCLA chancellor Gene Block condemned the attack and the pattern of attacks in recent years. In June, a UCLA ophthalmologist, Arthur Rosenbaum, found an explosive underneath his car, but the device did not go off. Last summer, UCLA neuroscientist [Dario Ringach](#) said he was giving up his work with primates in response to pressure from animal rights groups. His announcement came shortly after the Animal Liberation Front took responsibility for an attempt to place a Molotov cocktail on the doorstep of another UCLA researcher, [Lynn Fairbanks](#). (It was mistakenly placed on the doorstep of a neighbor, and also did not go off.)

Faculty attack case goes on

By [Edward Truong](#)

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Officials continue their investigation on the Oct. 20 flooding of UCLA Professor Edythe London's Beverly Hills home by animal rights activists, which was one of multiple attacks on university faculty in recent years.

The Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the flooding and sent communications which were distributed as a press release on Monday, where London is called an "animal abuser" who is responsible for "torturing nonhuman animals to death in outdated and unnecessary experiments."

The group also links her to addicting lambs to cocaine and conducting secret experiments on adolescent smoking. She called the allegations "outrageous hyperbole."

London is the director of the Laboratory of Molecular Neuroimaging at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. She is also a professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences as well as molecular and medical pharmacology.

She said her efforts in neurochemistry are motivated because of the poor treatment options currently available for drug abuse.

"I personally made a lifelong commitment to research on human brain function, particularly related to drug abuse," she said. "I did it without concern for personal safety because I didn't realize I'd be on the battlefield."

She said while animals are used in research relating to drug abuse, no animals were ever given an addictive amount of drugs.

"In order to understand how chemicals change in our brain ... it is true that nonhuman primates have received drugs of abuse related to research," she said, referring to drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine.

"The monkeys that receive drugs of abuse ... aren't addicted," she said.

She added that researchers are mindful of the animal subjects used in their studies.

"The other thing that one needs to consider is that any research that (is) done at UCLA is done by investigators that are very, very seriously concerned about the welfare and humane treatment of (animal) subjects," she said.

London also addressed accusations of conducting secret experiments about adolescent smoking and explained that when activist groups submitted an inquiry for information, some requested documents contained blacked-out information.

“The fact that the material was redacted to protect the identity of researchers working with animals ... unfortunately gave the impression that there was something secretive about what we are doing,” she said.

She is not the first UCLA faculty member to be targeted by the Animal Liberation Front. The same group also claimed responsibility for the failed firebomb attack on Professor Arthur Rosenbaum’s car in June.

In July 2006, the group also claimed responsibility for an attack against Lynn Fairbanks, a UCLA professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences who conducts behavioral research on primates. A bomb was mistakenly placed at the door of her neighbor’s house but failed to detonate, according to Daily Bruin archives.

In a statement released Monday, Chancellor Gene Block said other faculty members have also been subjected to threatening phone calls, e-mails, and property trespass and damage from animal rights activists.

Both the flooding and the attempted bombings are still under investigation, said Laura Eimiller, a Los Angeles FBI spokeswoman.

She added that FBI officials are working with the university, as well as directly with the Los Angeles Police Department, which is part of their Joint Terrorism Task Force. Investigators have also collaborated with fire officials to examine the incendiary devices from the previous incidents.

London said despite the vandalism, she has not been deterred in her efforts to advance drug abuse research.

“After one makes a 30-year commitment to the field, it’s very hard to walk away because terrorists are threatening us,” she said.

“I think it would be less than responsible to stop devoting all the energy that I have to fighting the problem of drug abuse in the county. The best way I know how to do this is with biomedical basic research.”

She said she believes university officials should be aware of the threats that researchers like herself face from activist groups.

“What I’ve learned is that I think there is a need for the academic community to protect the academic freedom of folks like myself who are under attack,” she said, adding that attacks can threaten her ability to continue lifesaving work.

University and FBI officials are offering rewards for information leading to the conviction of responsible parties. Eimiller said a reward of up to \$60,000 is offered in relation to the Fairbanks case and up to \$110,000 in the Rosenbaum case.

<http://www.newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/targeted-ucla-scientist-speaks-40153.aspx> or



http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-london1nov01_0,6486994.story



Opinion

Why I use laboratory animals

A UCLA scientist targeted by animal rights militants defends her research on addiction and the brain.

By Edythe London

November 1, 2007

For years, I have watched with growing concern as my UCLA colleagues have been subjected to increasing harassment, violence and threats by animal rights extremists. In the last 15 months, these attempts at intimidation have included the placement of a Molotov cocktail-type device at a colleague's home and another under a colleague's car -- thankfully, they didn't ignite -- as well as rocks thrown through windows, phone and e-mail threats, banging on doors in the middle of the night and, on several occasions, direct confrontations with young children.

Then, several weeks ago, an article in the San Francisco Chronicle about the work I have been doing to understand and treat nicotine addition among adolescents informed readers that some of my research is done on primates. I was instantly on my guard. Would I be the next victim? Would the more extremist elements of the animal rights movement now turn their sights on me?

The answer came this week when the Animal Liberation Front claimed responsibility for vandalism that caused between \$20,000 and \$30,000 worth of damage to my home after extremists broke a window and inserted a garden hose, flooding the interior. Later, in a public statement addressed to me, the extremists said they had been torn between flooding my house or setting it afire. Maybe I should feel lucky.

Having come to the United States as the child of Holocaust survivors who had lost almost everything, I appreciate that perhaps "only in America" could I have fulfilled my dream of becoming a biomedical scientist, supported in doing research to reduce human suffering. But it is difficult for me to understand why the same country that was founded on the idea of freedom for all gives rise to an organization like the Animal Liberation Front, a shadowy group identified by the FBI as a domestic terrorism threat, which threatens the safety of researchers engaged in

animal studies that are crucial to moving medicine forward.

I have devoted my career to understanding how nicotine, methamphetamine and other drugs can hijack brain chemistry and leave the affected individual at the mercy of his or her addiction. My personal connection to addiction is rooted in the untimely death of my father, who died of complications of nicotine dependence. My work on the neurobiology of addiction has spanned three decades of my life -- most of this time as a senior scientist at the National Institutes of Health. To me, nothing could be more important than solving the mysteries of addiction and learning how we can restore a person's control over his or her own life. Addiction robs young people of their futures, destroys families and places a tremendous burden on society.

Animal studies allow us to test potential treatments without confounding factors, such as prior drug use and other experiences that complicate human studies. Even more important, they allow us to test possibly life-saving treatments before they are considered safe to test in humans. Our animal studies address the effects of chronic drug use on brain functions, such as decision-making and self-control, that are impaired in human addicts. We are also testing potential treatments, and all of our studies comply with federal laws designed to ensure humane care.

While monkeys receive drugs in the laboratory, they do not become "addicted" in the same sense that humans become addicted. Still, we are able to see how changes in brain chemistry alter the way the brain works -- knowledge that is vital to the design of effective medications.

My colleagues and I place a huge value on the welfare of our research subjects. We constantly strive to minimize the risk to them; however, a certain amount of risk is necessary to provide us with the information we need in a rigorously scientific manner. Since the incident at my house, our research has gotten a lot of attention. Some anti-smoking groups have raised questions about the fact that our work was funded by Philip Morris USA. Is it moral to allow the tobacco industry to fund research on addiction? My view is that the problem of tobacco dependence is enormous, and the resources available for research on the problem are limited. It would, therefore, be immoral to decline an opportunity to increase our knowledge about addiction and develop new treatments for quitting smoking, especially when teens are involved. Few people are untouched by the scourge of addiction in their friends or family. It is through work like ours that the understanding of addiction expands and gives rise to hope that we can help people like my father live longer, healthier lives.

Thousands of other scientists use laboratory animals in other research, giving hope to those afflicted with a wide variety of ailments. Already, one scientist at UCLA has announced that he will not pursue potentially important studies involving how the brain receives information from the retina, for fear of the violence that animal rights radicals might visit on his family. We must not allow these extremists to stop important research that advances the human condition.

Edythe London is a professor of psychiatry and bio-behavioral sciences and of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.



Letters to the editor

November 3, 2007

Vandalism on behalf of critters

Re "Animal rights group says it flooded home," Oct. 30

It's happened again -- yet another UCLA scientist has faced an ugly and menacing threat at home. A communique from Animal Liberation Front activists claims that they flooded professor Edythe London's home Oct. 20, but their first choice would have been to burn her house to the ground. Perhaps we can glean small comfort that even animal rights militants are bright enough not to commit arson. The media were alerted to the attack by activist Jerry Vlasak, who maintains that killing scientists would be morally justifiable. It strains belief that this man is a physician who has taken the Hippocratic Oath, or that the animal liberation movement would accept him as a spokesman for their cause.

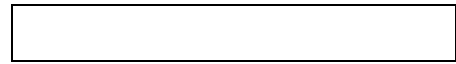
The malice of this attack and so many similar violent acts claimed by the Animal Liberation Front reminds us how delusional these militants can be and just how dangerous they are to public safety and welfare -- and to advances in science and medicine.

Jacque Calnan
President
Americans for Medical Progress
Alexandria, Va.

The Times ignores information that illustrates the egregious suffering of non-human primates and other sentient animals being addicted to methamphetamines, nicotine and other drugs. Treatments for such addictions are well known but underfunded; still, London and her ilk waste millions of dollars on ridiculous animal experiments that shed no light on human illness (money not just from Philip Morris USA but from taxpayer-funded grants as well).

If the public could see the animals' pain and learn of their lifetimes of confinement only to further the academic careers of non-clinicians such as London, they would be enraged. It's a sorry state of affairs that compassionate activists must expose these absurdities by the use of flood and fire. Such actions would be unnecessary if not for the refusal of UCLA officials to talk with mainstream activists advocating on behalf of the voiceless and powerless animals being exploited, abused and killed.

Jerry W. Vlasak
Woodland Hills



Letters to the editor

November 5, 2007

Animal research, human punishment

Re "Why I use animals in my research," Opinion, Nov. 1

Once again, animal rights lunatics like the Animal Liberation Front have raised their very ugly heads. Edythe London's passionate plea to them will fall on their deaf and evil ears. I don't question that an animal lover would choose the life of a pet over the life of a grumpy neighbor, but it is sickening to me when they feel that the life of a laboratory-bred animal is more important than the life of a human being. The potential harm to human beings to save laboratory-bred animals certainly confirms their description as terrorists.

Martin J. Weisman
Westlake Village

What happened to London's home is reprehensible. However, I strongly disagree with her reasons for accepting tobacco industry funding. It is not "immoral" to decline funds from the tobacco industry to further research. Groundbreaking research continues to be done without tobacco funding.

The tobacco industry produces products that, when used as intended, addict and kill. Smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. Analyses of tobacco industry internal documents reveal a long history of suppressing, manipulating and distorting scientific research. These findings were affirmed in last year's federal court ruling (currently under appeal) that the tobacco industry violated the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

The acceptance of money from the tobacco industry by scientists, especially for health-related research, threatens the mission of the university to seek truth.

Michael Ong MD
Los Angeles
The writer is an assistant professor in residence in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at UCLA's Department of Medicine.

Sorry, but chimps are not responsible for London's father's -- or anyone else's -- addiction to nicotine. If the animals are treated so humanely in her research as she states, then why not test

her drugs on London's family or the executives at Philip Morris USA who are funding her research? Chimps are a much more evolved creature than us to do something as silly as smoking.

Jefferson Davis
Long Beach

If, on the way to their next act of terrorism, members of the Animal Liberation Front get into a serious car accident, should they receive medical treatment? Virtually every medical procedure we use was developed using animal research. In my lifetime, I would like to see a cure for Alzheimer's, a vaccine against AIDS, effective treatments for cancer -- even a pain medication that won't make me goofy or addicted. None of these dreams can come true without animal research.

Dr. London, please don't be frightened away from your research on nicotine addiction. The world needs your work.

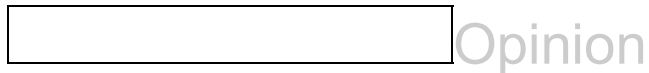
Medical research scientists do not enjoy seeing animals suffer. Any distress the animals experience is a regrettable necessity so that you and I stand a chance against the countless medical conditions that afflict the human body. If the Animal Liberation Front activists are true to their beliefs, they should treat their heart disease and diabetes with leeches, maggots and medicinal herbs; and in case of an accident, they should wear a medic-alert bracelet that says, "I refuse any treatment developed using animal research."

Mila Marvizon
Culver City

As an animal rights activist and American Jew who lost family members in the Holocaust, I am astonished that London does not see the link between the atrocities that she commits against her vulnerable nonhuman prisoners and the violence committed against our relatives in the Nazi concentration camps in the name of "science." Nazi researchers defended their vivisection of certain human beings by invoking the argument that it was going to be of some benefit to others. Similarly, London attempts to defend the abduction, confinement, mutilation and killing of sentient nonhumans by stating the utility it may hold for humans.

Both of these justifications are insufficient because species, like ethnicity, is not morally relevant and does not affect our ability to suffer.

Justin Goodman
Rockville, Conn.



BLOWBACK

Animals think they're pretty smart

Animal Liberation spokeswoman takes a bite out of UCLA animal testing.

By Lindy Greene

November 7, 2007

The North American Animal Liberation Press Office is a legal, above-ground organization that receives, clarifies and releases to the media the anonymous communiques received by underground activists who carry out illegal direct actions in defense of animals exploited and abused by individual and industry profiteers. The NAALPO is unaware of the identities of these activists and cannot predict or control when, where, how or whether they will strike. One might say that we speak for those who cannot — and for those who dare not.

Vivisection is simultaneously an animal rights and a human rights issue. Contrary to Edythe London's claim in her recent Op-Ed article "[Why I use laboratory animals](#)," testing treatments on animals and applying the results to humans is the greatest confounding variable of all! Data from one species cannot be extrapolated to another with more than 5% to 25% accuracy (note that simply flipping a coin would yield 50%) and that explains why no cures come down the pike for decades. It underlies the multiple thousands of consumer injuries and deaths every year from adverse reactions to drugs tested "safe" in animals and, conversely, causes potentially beneficial drugs tested "unsafe" to be discarded. Vivisection accomplishes nothing more than to gratuitously torture animals and retard true advancement in human medicine. In sum, it is both immoral and scientifically fraudulent.

UCLA squanders hundreds of millions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars to turn monkeys into tweakers while drug rehabilitation centers founder for lack of funds. Addiction is an area of inquiry that should lend itself admirably to human clinical studies. To understand substance abuse, investigators must examine and address the psychological, sociological, economic, political and other demographic parameters underlying a uniquely human inclination. Animals in the wild do not volitionally intoxicate themselves with psychotropic chemicals — and those in labs forced into artificially-induced dependence cannot communicate their experiences. Imagine the benefit to society by intervening through education and counseling before the prospective addict makes the fateful decision to try a drug. Some of the millions awarded to UCLA to hook primates might be redirected toward those more laudable endeavors.

While I have no love for the tobacco industry, I have to point out that smoking is completely elective. We have known for years that smoking induces chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and lung cancer, yet we are unwilling to accept personal accountability for conditions that are unequivocally the result of our own unwise behavior. Cardiovascular disease, cancer and stroke

are all on the rise. While a certain percentage may be due to heritable factors, much, if not most, is undoubtedly the consequence of eating animals. Our dentition, salivary and stomach acid composition and intestinal anatomy were designed for the ingestion of plants. Our air, water and soil are saturated with contaminants, yet the vivisectionists continue to hoodwink the gullible public into believing that we have to torture animals to find cures for ailments that can be mitigated or averted with more appropriate lifestyle choices and better environmental stewardship.

As a Jew, I cannot comprehend how someone who claims to be the child of Holocaust survivors can participate in a holocaust against other sentient beings. With London's reported background in psychiatry, she should be fully cognizant that animal abuse is the hallmark symptom of psychopathology.

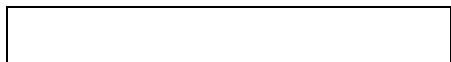
History strives repeatedly to teach us lessons that we stubbornly refuse to learn. In order to achieve its objectives, every social justice movement has ultimately had to resort to violence against the oppressors or their property. When legitimate grievances go consistently unheard, the attendant frustration expresses itself with escalating vehemence. The Sons of Liberty tossed 300 chests of British tea into the Boston harbor. The suffragettes employed arson. It took a civil war to end slavery and a world war to dismantle the Nazi concentration camps.

The Animal Liberation Front adheres to a nonnegotiable policy that no life, human or animal, be harmed during an action. It seeks to liberate animals directly from the clutches of their abusers or engage in economic sabotage against those abusers. The purpose of the former is self-explanatory; the motivation for the latter is the unfortunate recognition that it is the only means to engage with those whose cognitive and empathic shortfalls render them otherwise unreachable.

Activists who risk life, limb and liberty to stand up for sentient beings who cannot speak or act in their own behalf are unsung heroes and must endure the barbs of others who lack courage and moral fortitude. But they know the animals have it much worse, and that realization impels them to continue the battle for creatures whom society would arbitrarily place outside the circle of moral compassion and beyond the reach of effective defense.

Lindy Greene is the North American Animal Liberation press officer.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/print/edition/asection/la-le-tuesday13nov13,1,961573.story>



Letters to the editor

November 13, 2007

In defense of animal research

Re "Animal rights group says it flooded home," Oct. 30, and "Why I use animals in my research," Opinion, Nov. 1

The College on Problems of Drug Dependence, the world's longest-standing scientific organization focused on addictions, expresses unqualified support for the outstanding scientific work of our UCLA colleague, Edythe London, and outrage at the vandalism perpetrated against her home.

The research by London and other dedicated scientists working in the addictions field is essential to unraveling the scientific mysteries of these devastating medical disorders and bringing much-needed relief to those afflicted and their families. Criminal acts such as this recent one, apparently done in the name of humanity, only interfere with the scientific quest to find effective methods to treat and prevent addictions.

Stephen T. Higgins
President
College on Problems of Drug Dependence
Burlington, Vt.

We deplore the terrorism perpetrated against London by animal rights extremists and commend her for her courage in eloquently describing the importance of biomedical research involving animals. We, including the animal rights extremists, are healthier and living longer because of animal research done under careful federal regulations and humane conditions.

Animal research has played a vital role in virtually every major medical advance of the last century. Practically every present-day protocol for the prevention, treatment and cure of disease and relief of pain and suffering among humans and animals is based on knowledge attained through research with laboratory animals. Because of animal research, many diseases that once killed millions of people every year are either preventable, treatable or have been eradicated altogether.

Research scientists like London deserve our highest praise and deepest appreciation for their noble work and do not deserve to be threatened and discouraged by despicable acts of terrorism.

William T. Carpenter MD
President
Council of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
Nashville

<http://www.newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/fbi-investigates-fire-at-home-44151.aspx>

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Animal extremists say 'liberationists' responsible for firebomb attack

By
Office of Media Relations
2/5/2008 3:50:12 PM

Violence has once again been directed at a UCLA faculty member who conducts research involving laboratory animals.

The FBI and other members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force are investigating a fire caused by a device left at the front door of a Los Angeles home owned by Edythe London, a UCLA professor of psychiatry and of molecular and medical pharmacology. The device charred the front door early on Feb. 5. Nobody was home at the time and nobody was hurt.

In a news release posted on its Web site, a group calling itself the Animal Liberation Front said that "animal liberationists" were responsible for the attack. In October 2007, the group claimed responsibility for another attack on the UCLA professor's home, which suffered significant flood damage when someone inserted a garden hose through a broken window. The same group also claimed responsibility for leaving an incendiary device next to a car at the home of a UCLA ophthalmologist in June 2007 and near the home of a UCLA research psychologist in summer 2006. In those instances, the FBI said the devices were lit but did not ignite.

"These kinds of deplorable tactics have no place in a civilized society," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. "We will not stop beneficial research activities because of the illegal, violent acts of a handful of extremists."

Instead, Block said, "UCLA is working closely with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to bring to justice those responsible for this and other acts of violence against our researchers."

Block emphasized that research involving laboratory animals at UCLA is conducted in compliance with strict federal laws and university policies designed to ensure humane care. Such research has led to the development of lifesaving procedures and medicines, including radiation therapy and other cancer treatments, open-heart surgery, organ transplantation, mental health treatments and vaccines.

London utilizes laboratory monkeys in her research on nicotine addiction.

Those with information are urged to contact the FBI at (310) 477-6565.
Office of Media Relations,
310-825-2585
media@support.ucla.edu
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<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-vandal6feb06,1,6581182.story>

Los Angeles Times February 6, 2008 Page B4

Fire set at UCLA scientist's house

Authorities say no one was home when a device left on the front porch ignited. The professor conducts animal research and has been the target of earlier vandalism.

**By Andrew Blankstein and Greg Krikorian
Los Angeles Times Staff Writers**

February 6, 2008

Authorities are investigating a fire caused by a device left Tuesday at a house owned by a UCLA professor who conducts animal research -- the second time the house has been targeted in less than four months.

The device was placed Monday morning on the front porch of a Westside house owned by Edythe London, FBI officials in Los Angeles said.

London, a professor of psychiatry and bio-behavioral sciences and of molecular and medical pharmacology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, uses lab monkeys in her research on nicotine addiction.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller confirmed that officials with the Joint Terrorism Task Force were investigating the incident.

"It was ignited and caused damage to the property," Eimiller said. "No one was home at the time and nobody was hurt."

Eimiller said no one had claimed responsibility. But the agency is investigating the allegation that the Animal Liberation Front used a garden hose to flood London's house Oct. 20 in an attempt to stop her animal experiments.

UCLA Chancellor Gene Block condemned Tuesday's vandalism.

"Violence has once again been directed at a UCLA faculty member who conducts research involving laboratory animals. . . . These kinds of deplorable tactics have no place in a civilized society," Block said.

"UCLA is working closely with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to bring to justice those responsible for this and other acts of violence against our researchers," he said.

Meanwhile, authorities are also investigating ties between the October incident and one in June in which an incendiary device was lighted, but did not explode, next to a car at the home of a UCLA eye disease researcher.

In an op-ed piece in The Times in November, London wrote that researchers should not give in to intimidation and violence. "To me, nothing could be more important than solving the mysteries of addiction and learning how we can restore a person's control over his or her own life," London wrote. "We must not allow these extremists to stop important research that advances the human condition."

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http://www.animalliberationpressoffice.org/press_releases/pr_08_02_06_londonburns.htm

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UCLA Vivisector Gets Return Visit from Animal Liberationists Fire Damages Home of Primate Vivisector Edythe London

Los Angeles- After promising to return if she continued torturing non-human primates in her UCLA laboratory, animal liberationists have again targeted the home of notorious primate vivisector Edythe London. According to the Los Angeles Times, an incendiary device damaged her home today; no one was home at the time. London was targeted by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) last October for her role in torturing non-human animals to death in outdated and unnecessary experiments; in that incident, tens of thousands of dollars in damage was reported after her home was flooded by a garden hose. The ALF claimed to target London for her sadistic routine of addicting non-human primates to methamphetamine; she has also published data on primate addiction to nicotine, and addicting baby lambs to cocaine.

The communique received by the North American Animal Liberation Press Office last October promised:

"One more thing Edythe, water was our second choice, fire was our first. We compromised because we in the ALF don't risk harming animals human and non human and we don't risk starting brush fires. It would have been just as easy to burn your house down Edythe. As you slosh around your flooded house consider yourself fortunate this time. We will not stop until UCLA discontinues its primate vivisection programe."

In an article last September in San Francisco Gate, London was criticized for her "secret" experiments at UCLA on cigarette smoking, as she is being funded by a \$6 million dollar grant from Phillip Morris. Attempts to obtain more information by that periodical were met with documents so heavily redacted by UCLA that they were useless; London and UCLA had both refused to comment. London, a pharmacologist, has admitted publicly that her nicotine research on animals demonstrated there was so much inter-species variation in drug receptors, that no definitive statement could be made with regards to human effects of the drug.

Press Officer Jerry Vlasak, MD states: "London's research is a colossal waste of taxpayer money, and soliciting money from industry groups to study their retail products is considered unethical by most physicians interested in research that might help their patients. Of course, not being a clinician, London appears to have no interest in helping people, but instead derives pleasure in addicting primates to 'Crystal Meth' to further her own personal goals of academic and monetary enrichment. This recent attack should come as no surprise to London; I wouldn't be astonished if she remains a target until she stops her heinous experiments upon these innocent and unconsenting primates."

In recent months, activists legally picketing against UCLA primate vivisection have been met with unlawful obstruction and interference with their rights to exercise free speech activity by Santa Monica police including John Adams, a captain of the UCLA campus police who has threatened and harassed activists; a Federal lawsuit is pending in that matter. Underground organizations such as the ALF have historically stepped in when legal means of redress have been squelched; in all struggles throughout history, when

individuals who protest are persecuted, those watching from the sidelines in frustration find themselves intervening.

For media articles, click [here](#).

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Los Angeles Times February 9, 2008 Page A1

Smoking, and ire, at UCLA or A smoldering controversy at UCLA

The school accepts money from tobacco giant Philip Morris in its three-year study of nicotine addiction. Teenagers and monkeys are part of the research.

**By Richard C. Paddock
Los Angeles Times Staff Writer**

February 9, 2008

Here's a recipe for academic controversy:

First, find dozens of hard-core teenage smokers as young as 14 and study their brains with high-tech scans. Second, feed vervet monkeys liquid nicotine and then kill at least six of them to examine their brains. Third, accept \$6 million from tobacco giant Philip Morris to pay for it all. Fourth, cloak the project in unusual secrecy.

At UCLA, a team of researchers is following this formula to produce what it hopes will be a groundbreaking study of addiction. So far, the scientists have proved that the issues of animal testing and tobacco-funded research are among the most contentious on university campuses.

UCLA professor Edythe London, the lead scientist on the three-year study, said it could discover new ways to help people quit smoking and lead to innovative treatments for other addictions.

"We are doing this because we really want to save lives," she said. "I am really proud of what we are doing. We have a track record for contributing to science, and we would like to bring that to bear on the problem of nicotine addiction."

But even before she had a chance to select her first teenager for study, London paid a price for her research. In October, activists opposed to animal testing flooded her Westside home with her

garden hose, causing more than \$20,000 in damage. They struck again this week, leaving an incendiary device at night that charred her front door. A gardener discovered the damage Tuesday.

The activists, who have also targeted other UCLA researchers, accused London of using "sadistic procedures" and "torturing nonhuman animals to death" in earlier studies. No one has been arrested in the attacks.

At the same time, Philip Morris' role in the study has drawn sharp criticism from anti-tobacco activists. They doubt that the company wants to help people stop smoking and question whether the study of teenage and monkey brains could help Philip Morris design a more addictive cigarette.

"It's stunning in this day and age that a university would do secret research for the tobacco industry on the brains of children," said Matt Meyers of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids in Washington, D.C. "It raises fundamental questions about the integrity, honesty and openness of research anywhere at the University of California."

London said that Philip Morris would not have any oversight or other involvement in the study. The suggestion that the company might use her findings to make cigarettes more addictive is "twisted," she said.

"That is not something we ever considered," she said. "The representatives of Philip Morris were very sincere."

Roberto Peccei, vice chancellor for research at UCLA, said the company's motives were immaterial.

"I have no idea why Philip Morris decides to fund this anti-smoking research, but they do," he said. "As long as we do not feel that we are interfered with and that the research is done with the highest intentions, what's in the mind of the funder is irrelevant."

But critics say the UCLA study allows Philip Morris to sponsor research on adolescents that would prompt an outcry if the company did this work in its own laboratories.

"Edythe is a very good researcher, and frankly I'm shocked she would take the money," said Michael Cummings, a senior researcher at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. "I think she's naive."

Philip Morris, which is paying for 23 research projects at seven UC campuses, supports the UCLA study as part of the company's effort "to reduce youth tobacco use and increase scientific understanding in the field," said William Phelps, a Philip Morris spokesman.

He said the company has no intention of using the results or teenagers' brain scans to develop more addictive cigarettes. "We would never do that," he said.

Phelps declined to comment on the use of animals in the study.

Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), who backed efforts by an activist to obtain a copy of the

grant proposal, said UC has no business accepting money from tobacco companies.

"It is absolutely outrageous to see this kind of funding and this type of research within the UC system," said Yee, a psychologist. "The fact that a piece of research is funded by the tobacco industry, and their singular issue is how to sell cigarettes, taints the results of whatever the findings might be."

At UCLA, as at other University of California campuses, faculty members are free to accept money from any source. The only restriction is that studies involving animal and human subjects be approved by university review committees to ensure that they meet standards for the treatment of their subjects, university officials said.

For more than a year, anti-tobacco scientists and activists have pushed UC to prohibit faculty from accepting money from tobacco companies for research on tobacco. The Board of Regents, citing academic freedom, agreed instead to establish a committee that will review tobacco company research proposals.

UCLA officials say that the idea for the study of teenagers and monkeys originated with Philip Morris.

Phelps said Philip Morris began searching the country in 2006 for scientists who might be interested in conducting research on helping adolescents quit smoking. The search led the company to London, a noted UCLA professor of psychiatry and pharmacology who had studied addiction at the National Institutes of Health.

Philip Morris invited London to submit a grant proposal, which she did, said Carol Stogsdill, senior executive director of UCLA's media relations office. The company awarded London \$6 million to establish the Adolescent Smoking Cessation Center at the school and conduct the study on teenage and animal brains.

The smoking-cessation center is modeled on one at Duke University in North Carolina, which also receives money from Philip Morris. London said she hopes the UCLA center will receive additional funds for related research from Philip Morris or other donors.

UCLA has attempted to keep quiet about London's study out of fear of attacks on its researchers.

Animal rights activists were suspected in June of placing a bomb under the car of a UCLA ophthalmologist who had conducted tests on monkeys. In 2005, another UCLA researcher who conducted animal studies was targeted by a bomb at a residence. Neither device went off.

In September, UCLA responded to a Public Records Act request from anti-smoking activist Kimberlee Homer Vagadori by releasing a heavily redacted copy of London's grant proposal. There were so many deletions from the document that tobacco foes charged that the university was trying to hide work for Philip Morris.

In response to a subsequent Public Records Act request from The Times, UCLA provided more details but released virtually no information on the animal studies, citing the danger to its staff if specifics were made public.

Officials said it was the first time UCLA had withheld research information on the grounds of public safety. Peccei, who oversees research at the campus, acknowledged that UCLA could face a legal challenge but said that protecting researchers comes first.

"It's not like we are trying to protect this Philip Morris center because we have some secret to hide," Peccei said. "We will probably wind up in court, but we don't want firebombs in the backyards of people who work on animals."

In interviews, London and Peccei discussed some aspects of the study, which will include research on rats as well as monkeys.

In the first phase, researchers will test smoking-cessation techniques on 200 smokers between 14 and 20, an age when the brain is still developing. London said one focus is to understand why young people smoke, including whether depression or attention-deficit disorder contributes to the habit.

For the second phase, researchers will recruit 40 hard-core smokers, most of them from the first study group, as well as a control group of 40 nonsmokers, London said.

They will undergo functional MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans of their brains while they take psychological and personality tests.

The third phase will focus on animals. Researchers will administer liquid nicotine to adolescent and adult vervet monkeys, London said. The monkeys will undergo different behavioral tests and have PET (positron emission tomography) scans of their brains.

Eventually, six to 12 monkeys will be killed and their brains studied, Peccei said.

London, who has been at UCLA since 2001, hopes that the research will lead to a new understanding of how addiction works.

"It's very important to do animal studies," she said. "The animal studies are very focused on the effects of nicotine during development and the ability of the brain to do its work."

After the first attack on her house, London took the unusual step of standing up to the activists. She wrote an opinion piece for The Times contending that animal studies are a necessary part of research, saying it would "be immoral" to turn down the Philip Morris money and "decline an opportunity to increase our knowledge about addiction."

UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block, a research scientist who generally uses mice for his own laboratory tests, defended London.

"All the evidence leads me to believe that the research supported by Philip Morris is independent research of high quality," the chancellor said. "Edythe London's program is celebrated. She is studying addiction, important issues, human issues, that have an enormous effect on people's lives."

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