



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

6 September 2022

Dear Dr Trunnell,

Thank you for your recent letter concerning research involving the use of the forced swim test in animal research. The Macquarie University Animal Ethics Committee discussed the currently available literature on the use of the forced swim test at our recent July meeting, including reports of difficulty in interpreting findings from use of the test in depression studies. Given this review, our committee has decided that we will prohibit the forced swim test.

We do note that one research team at our institute has already completed studies using the forced swim test and that the findings from that study are yet to be published. The committee feels that it is important that these findings are still published so that those animals were not used unnecessarily within that study.

We thank you again for bringing this issue to our attention. The committee will continue to review literature on this test, along with all tests used within animal research, to keep up to date on the best practise in the field.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K White'.

Karolyn White