



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

January 25, 2024

Michael Lauer, M.D.
Deputy Director for Extramural Research

Axel Wolff, DVM, M.S.
Acting Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Via email: michael.lauer@nih.gov; olaw@mail.nih.gov

Dear Drs. Lauer and Wolff:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to request that the Office of Extramural Research and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare take immediate action to suspend all National Institutes of Health-funded activity being conducted by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and Harvard Medical School (HMS) researchers Laurie Glimcher, William Hahn, Irene Ghobrial, and Kenneth Anderson.

I'm sure you are aware of the recent research misconduct allegations made against these investigators, which have been reported on in the [Harvard Crimson](#), [STAT](#), and [Science](#). At this time, DFCI has begun the process of retracting six papers and making corrections to an additional 31 papers. Moreover, there are at least 16 other publications co-authored by these investigators that may need corrections or retraction.

To date, these four investigators have received \$304,448,645 of taxpayer funding from NIH and currently have seven actively funded projects totaling \$17,351,37. While I appreciate that an investigation of research misconduct of this magnitude will take time to complete, we believe that the seriousness of these allegations warrants your immediate action. We strongly recommend that NIH suspend all funding to these individuals during this investigation. If any of these researchers are determined to have engaged in research misconduct by knowingly and intentionally falsifying and/or fabricating figures and the methods, data, results, and conclusions in any of their publications or grant applications, we further request that NIH bar them from receiving any future NIH funds and that they be required to reimburse NIH for any disallowed costs.

When a researcher uses live human or animal subjects, it is all the more imperative that they can be trusted to uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct. As the investigators listed above all perform extremely invasive research on nonhuman animals, including genetically modifying animals to be susceptible to cancer or neurodegenerative diseases, tumor grafting, and injecting the brains of mice with prion-infected cells, we request that the Office of

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- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

Laboratory Animal Welfare suspend all animal-related activities for these researchers while the investigation is ongoing. If DFCI's investigation and/or NIH's Office of Research Integrity determine that errors contained in the 30-plus publications constitute evidence of research misconduct in experiments that involved nonhuman animals, we request that these researchers be forbidden from conducting animal-based experiments permanently.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine V. Roe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katherine" and last name "Roe" clearly distinguishable.

Katherine V. Roe, Ph.D.
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