Experimenting on Animals Pays Well

“It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it.” - Upton Sinclair

A paper in the Feb. 2013, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences was titled “Genomic responses in mouse models poorly mimic human inflammatory diseases.” The authors noted: “The prevailing assumption - that ... results from current mouse models developed to mimic human diseases translate directly to human conditions - is challenged by our study.”

This is but one of a growing number of reports by mainstream medical researchers pointing out the simple fact that experiments on animals don’t help humans. So why do people keep experimenting on animals?

Two databases are available that together provide a plausible answer. The NIH lists grants and the federal tax dollars that were spent on them.(2) It’s now also possible to look-up the 2012 salaries of some University of Wisconsin employees online.(1)

Ned Kalin, the chair of the university’s Department of Psychiatry, who has been given approval to maternally deprive baby monkeys [see NotInOurName.org] was paid $218,189 by the university. He has been using monkeys and rats for over three decades in his experiments on fear and stress, which garnered $1,207,277 in NIH grants in 2012.

The university gets a portion of an NIH grant for what are called “indirect expenses.” The university got $397,666 in indirect expenses from Kalin’s monkey experiments in 2012. The rest of the money is used to pay for things like lab equipment and supplies, to buy or rent animals from the university, to pay various other lab costs to the university, and to pay salaries.

Yoshihiro Kawaoka was paid $356,554. He infects ferrets and sometimes monkeys with very dangerous strains of influenza. In 2012, NIH awarded him $1,215,887 for his experiments at UW-Madison; the university got $316,459 in indirect expenses. Kawaoka also received $355,808 for conducting Ebola experiments at the University of Chicago (using guinea pigs and monkeys) and an additional $594,748 for other Ebola experiments at the Oregon Health and Sciences University (using...
AFAE members probably remember that then Representative Baldwin refused to co-sponsor the Great Ape Protection Act (now called the Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act). She said time after time that she’d never heard about it. She eventually came clean and said that her “constituents” had advised her not to support ending the use of chimpanzees as research tools.

She must have heard from many more of her constituents who were urging her to co-sponsor the Act, but for some reason she decided to side with the undoubtedly tiny number of constituents who think it a good thing that the U.S. is one of only two countries in the world that allow the use of chimpanzees; the other is Gabon.

The Society of Neuroscience’s reasons for opposing the Act are a good summary of the industry’s concerns: “If enacted, the legislation would have taken the unprecedented step of prohibiting the use of a research model, allowed public comment about the merit of specific research projects and protocols, and opened the door for future prohibition of other research models.”

According to the Center for Responsive Politics at OpenSecrets.org, the University of Wisconsin’s donations (all from individuals) to Baldwin in 2011/12 totaled $113,350. The UW was her third highest donor.

Senator Baldwin has announced that she intends to introduce legislation that will increase NIH funding to researchers. If the additional billions of dollars she wants were dispersed evenly throughout the agencies that make up the NIH, it would mean that about 40% of it would pay to have more animals experimented on. She’s calling her proposal the Next Generation Research Act.

A headline in the August 13, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel stated: “Tammy Baldwin warns of lost generation of science researchers.” Baldwin is claiming that the recent 5% cut from the NIH budget by sequestration will have devastating effects.

But the NIH budget is at a near all-time high. Between 2008 and 2012, the NIH budget fluctuated between $29 and $31 billion. 2009 was the first time the budget topped $30 billion. NIH estimates a $29 billion budget for 2013.

Articles over the past few years in the mainstream press written by highly respected people and organizations have called attention to the fact that there hasn’t been much benefit to human patients coming out of all this funded research.

The massive public outlay to (generally) university researchers is a mainstay for their respective institutions. The University of Wisconsin - Madison is currently receiving about $200 million a year in NIH funding, and somewhere around 40% of it pays for experiments on animals and helps makes vivisectors rich, which might help explain why Tammy is pushing for more money for this particular constituency and turning her back on the chimpanzees.
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mice and monkeys). He may receive salaries from those institutions as well.

These are just two of many examples. A quick search of the NIH database turned up 183 projects at the university in 2012 using mice, rats, dogs, cats, or monkeys. The total award for those projects was $71,042,287.

It seems likely that the main reason such experiments continue is just money.

(1)“UW System Salaries Search.” Wisconsin State Journal madison.com/data/uw_salaries
(2)Award amounts from NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools. report.nih.gov/index.aspx

Animal Rights 101 at Alicia Ashman Library

Rick Bogle, AFAE's Co-Executive Director, will give a public talk and lead a discussion on the basics of animal rights on Monday, Oct 7.

This is an opportunity to invite a friend to learn about the basic philosophy, to ask questions, and to sample some delicious vegan snacks.

Rick has been vegan since 1972 and became a full-time animal rights activist in 1997, after learning about experiments being conducted on baby monkeys a few hours away from his home in the state of Oregon.

Rick was a public school teacher in his earlier life, has worked for national animal rights groups, has lectured and protested across the country, and has authored innumerable articles, brochures, webpages, and four books. He blogs at primateresearch.blogspot.com.

Madison Vegan

This just in from Salvatore’s Tomato Pies in Sun Prairie regarding their listing on AFAE’s new website MadisonVegan.com.

"Hey there! Just wanted to say thanks for creating this resource. For almost a year we've been trying to promote our vegan pizza with Tuscan white bean puree instead of cheese. Since we've been listed on your site, requests for the pizza have tripled! Finally, folks know they can get a white bean vegan pizza with organic kale, squash, local portobello, broccoli, broccoli rabe, sweet red peppers and more. Basically, whatever vegetables we happen to have from our farmer/partners. Thank you!"

Be sure to visit madisonvegan.com and visit the restaurants listed there. The more they hear customers asking for vegan dishes, the more vegan dishes they'll have! It's win-win.

AFAE at 2013 Fighting Bob Fest

Thank you to Marina Drake, Julie Grosso, Gina Stuessy, Ann Emerson, and Charlie Talbert for joining Co-Directors Rick and Lynn at our table at Fighting Bob Fest at the Alliant Energy Center last month.

We heard good conversations and ample literature was handed out. The animals definitely had a voice!
Tributes

In memory of Maddie, longtime companion kitty of Lesley, Ken, and Frank Crocker with love from Lynn and Rick, Micky and Sonny.

In memory of Lobo’s friend, Stu. “Thanks for all the walks.” From the West Family.

*Tributes of 20 words or less will be listed for a donation of $25 or more. Pictures welcomed. Visit our Support page at www.allanimals.org or include your tribute in the enclosed envelope.

Join Us!

Antivivisection Committee
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Visit our Events page for summer locations at www.allanimals.org/events. This is an active group, so be prepared to do some work!

We Appreciate Our Volunteers

Thanks to Leslie Hamilton, Megan Ryan, Ann Emerson, and Gina Stuessy for working at our Capital Square Farmers Market last month. And to Derek Bump for his continuing expert assistance with our video library.

Please volunteer by clicking on the “Getting Involved” tab at our website at allanimals.org. We need you!

And speaking of volunteers. . .

AFAE relies on volunteers like you to pull off our fall Chili Cook Off on Nov 2 (see front page). Please contact Gina Stuessy at gstuessy@gmail.com or by phone at (608) 446-2243 if you can help out for an hour or two. You won't miss any of the fun! We need volunteers for the following positions: setup, ticket table, hot dogs and condiments table, restaurant assistants, raffle ticket sales, raffle announcer & prize runners, vote counters, and the ever enjoyable clean up!