

PCRM

PHYSICIANS
COMMITTEE
FOR
RESPONSIBLE
MEDICINE

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November 23, 2005

SAMPLE PETITION

Lawrence A. Hansen, M.D.
UCSD Medical School
Dept. of Neurosciences - 0624
9500 Gilman Dr., Dept. 0096
La Jolla CA 92093-0624

Dear Larry:

As a fellow member of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, I am writing to ask your help with an urgent matter that will affect the direction of future neurological research. As you may know, Ohio State University has been conducting a program that will propagate animal experiments in spinal cord injury, not only at OSU, but at many other institutions as well. I know many neurologists and neurosurgeons share my concern, not only about both the potential for cruelty to animals, but also about the continued neglect of more important lines of research, particularly clinical studies with our patients.

The OSU program recruits technicians and researchers from various institutions and trains them to injure the spinal cords of mice and rats, after which these personnel will continue to conduct this sort of experimentation at their respective institutions in the future. During each course, nearly 270 animals are subjected to serious injuries: The animals' spinal cords are exposed by laminectomy and injured by blunt trauma. The injured animals are often in pain, and some respond by chewing into their own skin and muscle.

Let me emphasize that this is not a research project. It is a program to expand rodent experiments, diverting attention and funding away from clinical research far into the future. At a recent Institute of Medicine meeting on research priorities, spinal cord injury advocates called for less non-applied research and much more research on methods that can help them directly. Human clinical studies, *in vitro* cell and tissue and imaging techniques, and post-mortem studies all contribute to our understanding of human spinal cord injury in ways that animal "models" cannot.

If you agree that we need to move away from animal experiments toward more useful and ethical research methods, please, sign this petition and fax it to the number below. If you have already been involved with PCRM's campaign, for example by writing to OSU in the past, I thank you. Please continue to show your support for PCRM's efforts to urge OSU to invest in better methods and sign below. We will compile responses and deliver them to Ohio State University. For further details, please visit www.pcrm.org/osu or contact Kristie Stoick, M.P.H at PCRM (202-686-2210, ext. 335, kstoick@pcrm.org). Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Carrie Walters, M.D.
Neurosurgeon
Phoenix, Arizona

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Please simply sign and fax this letter to 202-686-2216 or use the mailing address above.

Dear Dr. Walters: It is essential to increase our investment in human clinical studies in spinal cord injury, and to move away from attempts to model injuries in animals, many of whom suffer in the process. I request that Ohio State University foster techniques for effective and ethical spinal injury research.

Signed: Lawrence A. Hansen Name and degree: MD, Professor of Neurosciences and

I would like to help further with this campaign. Please contact me at: Pathology, UCSD
School of Medicine