

# Coalition For Animals & Animal Research

## CFAAR Arizona Newsletter

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To join the Arizona CFAAR, please fill out the membership form on the back page. Donations publish our newsletter and educational materials. A years subscription is included with your contribution.

### CFAAR: Who We Are

CFAAR is a nonprofit educational organization which formed in response to activists who were attempting to discredit animal research and animal researchers in 1988. Several local CFAAR chapters have since sprung up across the country. These groups share the following objectives:

- 1) To **organize** students, faculty, and staff at institutions where animal research is performed so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly.
- 2) To **educate** the public, in general, and the campus, in particular, about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers.
- 3) To **support** responsible and humane use of animals in biomedical research.

The first of these objectives will be the primary function of the group. As legislation is introduced that affects animal research, we need to respond so our representatives know exactly how we, the people, want them to vote. Accordingly, through our newsletter, we will help inform you about legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on animal research. Our goal is to make it as easy as possible to contact your Washington, D.C. representatives.

The key to the effectiveness of this organization is you! We need your willingness to write an occasional letter, perhaps talk with a school group and, of course, give a few dollars to cover the cost of printing the newsletter and educational materials.

**HELP SUPPORT CFAAR  
SO WE CAN SUPPORT YOU**

### Scientists Report Progress on Stem Cell Research

By Paul Recer

A group of scientists reported they were able to turn embryonic stem cells into insulin-producing cells that may one day cure diabetes, while other scientists cloned specialized neurons in research that may lead to new treatments for those suffering from Parkinson's disease.

The two studies, appearing Friday in the journal *Science*, were conducted in laboratory mice. The Bush administration continues to ban federal funding of research using human embryonic stem cells.

At the National Institutes of Health, researchers cultured stem cells from mouse embryos to form a complex that secreted insulin, potentially an important step toward a diabetes cure.

In another study, researchers at Rockefeller University and Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York created a cloned mouse embryo and then cultured its stem cells into neurons that made dopamine, a brain chemical that is missing in patients with Parkinson's disease.

Nadya Lumelsky of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders, lead author in the diabetes study, said that her team found a way, using special proteins, to make mouse embryonic stem cells grow into islet cells of the type that produce insulin, a hormone that Type 1 diabetes patients lack.

"They formed into structures that are reminiscent of pancreatic islets," said Lumelsky. "They are organized in a similar fashion." She said that when glucose, or sugar, was added to the medium surrounding the cells, they produced small amounts of insulin, responding just as islet cells do in the pancreas.

NIH scientists are forbidden by federal law from doing the same experiment using human embryo cells, but Lumelsky said the team will test insulin-producing stem cells by putting them into

mice that have diabetes. In theory, the transplanted stem cells could cure diabetes in the animals.

Dr. Robert Goldstein, chief scientific officer of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, hailed the work by Lumelsky and her team as "an important discovery which holds great promise for patients seeking a cure for juvenile (Type 1) diabetes."

Tony Perry, a co-author of the other stem cell paper, said that his team proved that cloning may be a new pathway toward making stem cells to treat complex diseases. In the study, researchers used techniques like those used to clone Dolly, the famous sheep.

Perry said the researchers removed a cell from an adult mouse and extracted the genetic pattern. They then removed the nucleus from a mouse egg and replaced it with the genes from the adult mouse cell. They cultured this egg to form an embryo and make stem cells that genetically matched the original adult mouse.

These stem cells were then transformed into neurons that produce dopamine in the brain. Parkinson's disease is caused by the lack of dopamine. "The vision behind this therapeutic cloning is to take a cell from a patient and create an unlimited supply of a specialized cell that can be used for therapy in that patient," said Perry. Such cells would match the cells of the patient and would not be rejected, he said.

"This was the first step in showing this kind of therapy might work," said Dr. Lorenz Studer of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a co-author of the study.

Embryonic stem cells are among the first cells formed after conception. From these cells, all the tissues in the body evolve. Scientists believe the cells could be used to restore ailing hearts, livers and other organs.

Many people, including some members of congress, object to human embryonic stem cell studies because harvesting the stem cells kills the human embryo. Congress has banned federally funded research that kills a human embryo.

The proposed NIH guidelines get around this restriction by permitting federal funding of studies using embryonic stem cells that have been harvested by privately funded researchers.

Bush ordered that the new guidelines not be followed until after an HHS review. The first

federal funding of human embryo stem cell research was originally scheduled to be awarded this summer.

(Washington Post, 4/26/01)

## **Blind Woman Prompts Council to Reconsider 'Pet Guardian'**

By Ken McLaughlin

A blind woman accompanied by her dog single-handedly quashed a Santa Cruz plan to turn pet owners into "pet guardians." Veronica Elsea, a 20-year Santa Cruz resident who has been without sight since infancy, warned the council that a seemingly innocent measure could have unintended consequences.

If the ordinance changes had passed, Santa Cruz would have become the third city in the nation to strike the phrase "pet owners" from its books after animal-rights activists argued that "owners" is an outdated term that doesn't reflect the relationship people have with their pets.

But Elsea, 47, contended that the move would have been "a foot in the door for the animal-rights fringe" to start pushing more radical measures, such as eliminating the most effective training of guide dogs "because they're so afraid of any kind of discipline." Said Elsea: "Warm and fuzzy does have its dark side to it."

One guide-dog school has told trainers to stop using the "no" command to the canines because it is considered abusive, Elsea said. She said she and her twin sister, who lives in San Francisco and is also legally blind, are both frequently harassed by people on the street who say that putting a dog in a harness is cruel.

Officials of animal-rights groups Wednesday said that Elsea's charges were absurd. But council members Tuesday night took her concerns seriously. The majority said they were reluctant to move ahead with the proposed change, despite assurances by City Attorney John Barisone that it was "merely symbolic." The council voted 6-1 to table the proposal indefinitely, with only Vice Mayor Christopher Krohn dissenting.

Dr. Elliot Katz of Marin-based In Defense of Animals, which is at the forefront of the "guardian" movement, accused Elsea of being a

skill for "dog breeders," saying that groups such as his have no hidden agenda to hamper the training of guide dogs. "From my perspective, if a dog is being treated as a companion animal and is assisting the woman and performing a valuable service, that's fine," the veterinarian said. "If she's just treating the animal as her property, then that's wrong." Isea, a small-business owner, laughed off Katz's comments, saying L'Orange, a black Labrador retriever, was "totally responsible" for her quality of life.

"On the silly side of the ledger," she said, the city staff had blown it big time when it simply searched and replaced the word "owner" for "guardian" on a word processor to alter its animal-control ordinance. That resulted in such absurdities as "property guardian" and "livestock guardian dogs," she said. "It's interesting that a legally blind person had to come up and point these things out," Councilman Ed Porter said with a laugh.

(San Jose Mercury News, 3/15/01)

## **Brain Mechanism Tied to Cancer, AIDS Weight Loss**

Help may be on the way for patients suffering from the catastrophic weight loss associated with cancer and AIDS, as Oregon researchers zero in on the brain mechanism controlling this condition.

This wasting away, known as cachexia, is characterized by a severe loss of appetite coupled with an increased metabolism, which makes gaining or even maintaining weight difficult. The weakness and loss of muscle mass can make these patients, especially children and the elderly, extremely fragile and unable to tolerate or recover from aggressive forms of therapy aimed at curing their ailments.

Now, researchers working with mice have located a mechanism in the brain that appears to play a major role in cachexia. While the finding may potentially lead to therapies that help patients to bulk back up, more research is needed to confirm that the mechanism in mice is the same in humans. The research, which was published in the February 15th issue of the journal *Cancer*

Research, was led by Dr. Daniel Marks of the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU).

The scientists targeted certain molecules found on the surface of brain cells, known as MC4 receptors. The receptors are located in a part of the brain called the hypothalamus. "Previous research has shown that decreased activity in these nerve cells causes a person's metabolism to slow and their appetite to increase, causing weight gain," said study co-author Dr. Roger Cone in a statement issued by OHSU. "Right now, the MC4 receptor is one of the major targets of the pharmaceutical industry for the treatment of obesity. However, we hypothesized that if this group of nerve cells worked too well, the result for that animal would be the opposite--a higher metabolism and low appetite, or cachexia."

The group tested this hypothesis in a strain of mice bred to have inactive MC4 receptors, as well as in normal mice injected with a cachexia-inducing chemical. The investigators found the mice resisted weight loss due to cancer or infectious disease when an MC4-blocking substance was infused directly into the brain. "Our data suggests that this system may play an integrative role in mediating the cachexia observed in human diseases such as cancer, heart failure, Alzheimer's disease and AIDS, thereby providing a common target for therapeutic intervention," the researchers conclude.

(Cancer Research, 2/15/01)

## **Author Claims U. Michigan Experiments on Animals Ineffective** By Ahmed Hamid

Despite the large role animal experimentation plays in medical research at the University of Michigan, C. Ray Greek, a scientific advisor for the National Anti-vivisection Society, argues such research is ineffective. "Scientifically it is not valid. You cannot extrapolate from one species to another," Greek said.

Howard Rush, interim director of the University's Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine, said the University performs research on approximately 150,000 animals per year. "Ninety-five percent of the animals are rats, mice, fish and frogs," he added.

Greek cited various incidents in medical history when the application of animal data proved futile. "There are far too many examples of good medications like penicillin that were delayed from release due to harmful effects in animals," Greek said. Greek also blamed animal models for delaying the release of the polio vaccine as well as convincing early medical researchers that smoking was non-carcinogenic.

While Greek finds animal testing to be ineffective, he has no ethical qualms about using animals in research. "I am not opposed to it. What I am saying is that when the medical community tells you that we use chimps because they share 99 percent of our genes, I say that is a fallacious argument," Greek said. "We share 58 percent of our genes with bananas and no one is testing heart disease drugs on bananas. Very small differences in animal systems can be of profound significance."

At a lecture last Thursday sponsored by the Michigan Animal Rights Society, some audience members expressed skepticism about Greek's contentions. In the question and answer session following the lecture, one audience member questioned whether Greek had any statistical evidence to support his claims, saying he had provided only anecdotal evidence. "Yes I do, but I changed my slides and won't bother to look for them right now," Greek said.

Greek mentioned his book "Sacred Cows and Golden Geese -- The Human Cost of Experiments on Animals," which he co-authored with his wife, as having "over a thousand references" to support his point. Greek further said that animal rights activists should not only "oppose animal experimentation on ethical grounds."

Michigan Animal Rights Society, Kristie Stoick, LSA senior, agreed. "I think Dr. Greek is right in saying people aren't going to be reached just by saying animal experimentation is unethical. It is important to educate people about sound science as well," Stoick said.

Rush said he sees animal experimentation as a viable research model among a variety of models. "Any investigator who is doing research is looking for the best model. You can use a cell culture, organ-culture, computer simulations, or animals. Animals are just one form of model used in studying disease," Rush said.

(Michigan Daily News, 1/29/01)

## Eco-Terror Flames Up By Judi Villa

At first he seemed like a mere firebug with a penchant for burning luxury homes under construction. Then came the scrawled message, "U build - we burn agin!," followed by two more notes that talked about saving the environment and warned against future building.

Across the country, eco-terrorists are setting fires, exploding bombs and destroying property to make their points about perceived wrongs involving urban sprawl, logging, abortion and animal rights. Could the arsonist who has torched as many as nine luxury homes against the Phoenix Mountains Preserve in the past three years actually be an eco-terrorist?

Although he has not publicly aligned himself with national extremist groups, experts say the person or group should not be too quickly discounted. The arsonist has claimed to be part of a group that uses the acronym CSP and is devoted to preserving desert land.

"Not every group is the same," said Jeffrey Simon, president of the Political Risk Assessment Co. in Santa Monica, Calif., and author of *The Terrorist Trap: America's Experience with Terrorism*. "Sometimes the individual or the two wackos can be just as dangerous as an established group," Simon added.

Theodore Kaczynski, the Unabomber, arrested in 1996, wreaked havoc on the country for nearly two decades all by himself, killing three and injuring 29 in 16 anti-technology attacks from 1978 through 1995.

From 1980 to September 1999, at least 100 major acts of arson, bombings and sabotage, all in the name of saving the environment and its creatures, occurred in 11 Western states, according to research conducted by the *Oregonian* newspaper in Portland. Damages reached \$42.8 million. Since 1999, arson-caused fires linked to extremist environmental groups have been set in Oregon, Michigan, Indiana and New York.

Just last weekend, the radical Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the burning of three luxury homes under construction on what was one of the last remaining peach farms on Long Island, N.Y. Environmental

extremists have burned or tried to burn nine new homes in the past month to protest suburban sprawl in Long Island, and an additional 10 homes have been vandalized. The note claiming responsibility was ironically similar to the messages left in Phoenix: "If you build it, we will burn it," ELF wrote.

In Phoenix, officials aren't sure if they are dealing with one person or a small group. The fires next to the Phoenix Mountains Preserve started in January 1998. The latest was Saturday. Damage is estimated at \$5 million. No one has been harmed, but officials worry that some of the arsonist's fires posed a threat to nearby neighbors and firefighters.

"I think he's pretty serious if he's using fire," said Doug Allen, an expert on serial arsonists and a retired division chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Phoenix arsonist has not claimed affiliation with either the underground Earth Liberation Front, which admits responsibility for most environmentally related arson throughout the United States, or its companion group, the Animal Liberation Front.

But David Barbarash, the ALF spokesman in Canada, said he still would consider the Phoenix arsonist's actions "equal to the actions of the ELF." "If you're going to continue with your actions, you can call yourself whatever you want," Barbarash said, "and you should be taken seriously."

Eco-terrorists crave publicity for their cause in an attempt to alter policies they don't like, Allen said. "They want their name in the light," he said. "They want their cause in the light." Said Simon, the terrorism expert: "They're not going to change the system from within, so they try to change it from without."

ELF and ALF prohibit violence and the use of explosives, and they mandate that no harm be done to humans or animals, Barbarash said. "They believe that destruction of property is a non-violent act," he said. If development is threatening the wilderness, "then the destruction of that property is justified." ELF has taken responsibility for at least 33 eco-terrorist activities across the country since 1996.

The FBI documented 30 acts of domestic terrorism in the United States from 1990 to 1998, including arsons and bombings. At least one of the incidents was an eco-terrorist attack: A 1998

arson-caused fire at a Vail, Colo., ski resort that ELF said it set because the expansion project threatened lynx.

Still, Barbarash said he rejects the "eco-terrorist" label for those actions and others like them. "It's not terrorism," he said. "The terrorism that is happening is against the natural world and the habitat and the animals."

In January 2000, ELF set fire to a home in Bloomington, Ind., because of its location on a watershed that provided the town's drinking water. And in November, the group claimed responsibility for torching a mansion under construction in Boulder County, Colo., because voters defeated a growth-control measure.

"In their mind it raises the public consciousness of what they see as injustices," Simon said of eco-terrorists. "Sometimes it's not as rational as we think it should be, but somehow they made a decision that violence is going to serve their purpose. And when they do that, they become very dangerous."

Experts caution that there is no standard modus operandi for an eco-terrorist. Months may pass between strikes or not. They may move on to another cause or not. Notes may be left or not.

Phoenix's arsonist has left only three messages: graffiti in April on a billboard at the site of one burned home, a typed letter left at the same home site when it was burned a second time in October and a letter mailed last week to *The Arizona Republic* and Channel 12 (KPNX). The latest letter called Phoenix's acre-an-hour growth "obscene."

ALF's Barbarash said groups use fire to make their points because "it's effective." Although aboveground organizations focus on raising awareness, radicals want to inflict enough economic damage so an organization can't stay in business, he said.

But although the groups may cite changes in animal testing, herbicide use on public lands and the way Hollywood treats animals, they have not eliminated the problems that triggered their extremist actions. The United Kingdom recently banned fur farming, but Barbarash said there has been no similar industrywide changes in North America that would satisfy the extremist groups. The ski resort in Vail was built anyway. Logging continues, as does experimentation on animals. And people still are building luxury homes on what once was pristine land.

Eco-terrorism works only in subtle ways, said James Damitio, who supervises criminal investigations for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington and Oregon. "Some people may not admit that terrorism is affecting their decisions," Damitio said. "But these are individual management decisions or planning decisions, sometimes financial decisions."

Repeated attacks on logging, for example, could prompt a timber company to decide not to cut trees if it would cost extra money for security, or force the Forest Service to not allow logging in areas under attack by tree spikers, Damitio said.

ALF's Barbarash said widespread change will occur only if the underground groups work with aboveground organizations who circulate petitions, attend public meetings, picket and engage in civil disobedience. "I don't think the ALF and the ELF expect to change anything by themselves," Barbarash said.

Prosecution of eco-terrorists is rare. Fewer than 20 of the 100 major cases documented by the *Oregonian* were solved. Eco-terrorists often strike remote targets at night and leave little evidence behind, making it difficult to find and convict them, said David Tubbs, retired special agent in charge of the FBI's Salt Lake City office. The groups tend to be close-knit and secretive.

"There is not much communication between them about what action they are going to take, making it difficult to develop a case," Tubbs said. "And they are smart."

(Arizona Republic, 1/5/01)

## **Animal Rights Activist Faces Grand Jury**

By Gillian Flaccus

A federal grand jury questioned an animal rights activist yesterday about the radical environmental group Earth Liberation Front, prompting a protest on the sidewalk outside the U.S. District Court. Josh Harper, 25, was charged with criminal contempt of court after he did not appear before the Portland grand jury on May 24. FBI agents in Seattle arrested him in September.

The grand jury is investigating suspected eco-terrorist acts by two underground groups -- the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front -- that have claimed responsibility for a

string of fires, including a \$400,000 arson Jan. 2 at Superior Lumber Co. in Glendale. About 35 protesters yesterday lined the street in front of the courthouse waving signs.

Harper, a longtime animal rights activist from Eugene, has publicized animal rights sabotage in a videotaped series entitled "Breaking Free." Some of the footage was of ELF actions, said Leslie James Pickering, a spokesman for ELF. Harper was scheduled for trial on the contempt charge Tuesday, but the trial has been postponed until March 7, Pickering said. Harper said the same thing yesterday in a "legal update" he posted on an e-mail list.

Harper's attorney, Stuart Sugarman, said assistant U.S. attorney Stephen Peifer might drop the criminal contempt charge because Harper appeared before the Portland grand jury yesterday. Sugarman said Harper didn't give the grand jury much information. The grand jury will not reconvene until March, Sugarman said.

Harper says he is not a member of ELF or ALF and does not know any members. But Pickering said protesters -- and Harper himself -- support "the direct action of ELF and ALF." ELF has claimed responsibility for the destruction of \$37 million in property over the past four years, ranging from the arson of three Long Island homes built on farmland, to the vandalism of logging equipment used in Oregon timber sales.

ELF has claimed responsibility for at least 21 major attacks since the group surfaced in October 1996 by torching a truck at a U.S. Forest Service ranger station in Oregon.

(Seattle Post Intelligencer, 3/9/01)

## **Huntingdon Sues Animal Activists**

Huntingdon Life Sciences Group announced today that its US subsidiary, Huntingdon Life Sciences Inc., has joined in the filing of an Amended Complaint in a lawsuit against various animal rights organizations and affiliated individuals in response to the defendants' unlawful campaign of violence, intimidation, and harassment directed at the Company and Stephens Group of Little Rock Arkansas, one of the Company's significant shareholders. The action, pending in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, was originally filed by Stephens Group, and its wholly owned investment banking subsidiary, Stephens Inc.

The Amended Complaint asserts claims under the Civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Statute ("RICO") of the United States and the State of New Jersey and cited conduct including physical attacks on individual employees, death threats, bomb threats, destruction of property, burglary, harassment and intimidation. The Amended Complaint also asserts claims for interference with contractual relations and economic advantage.

The complaint names as defendants Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), Voices for Animals, Animal Defense League, In Defense of Animals, and certain individuals. The suit requests injunctive relief to stop the defendants and those acting in concert with them from engaging in acts and threats of force, violence and intimidation directed at the Company, Stephens, and their respective employees, customers, shareholders and investors. It also seeks an award of monetary damages for losses incurred as a result of the defendants' unlawful conduct.

Huntingdon's Executive Chairman, Andrew Baker, stated: "This suit represents the next step in the Company's initiatives to reign in the campaign of a small band of animal rights extremists who are seeking to destroy our Company and undermine the fields of scientific discovery which rely on the Company's crucial work. Unlike the activists, who defy the law to terrorize people and entities to bow to their demands, we will seek proper redress in the US legal system." Brian Cass, Huntingdon's Managing Director, said "Many of our stakeholders have been subject to appalling threats and intimidation from these extremists and firm action now needs to be taken. The defendants are involved in a campaign not just aimed at Huntingdon but at all scientific animal research. However, we are the primary target today and we intend to show that we shall not merely cave in to their onslaught. For the benefit of all of us, this campaign of violence and intimidation of individuals, often at their homes, must be stopped. We and our clients and fellow researchers everywhere must be allowed to go about our crucial, and lawful endeavors free from fear."

Cass added: "This lawsuit sends a powerful message that Huntingdon is standing up for its right to conduct its lawful and socially vital business. We greatly appreciate the support shown by our employees, customers, service

providers and shareholders, as well as those in government, law enforcement, and the media. This lawsuit states unequivocally that no one has the right to replace dialogue and debate with extortion and terrorism."

HLS filed a similar RICO lawsuit in 1997 against People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and certain affiliated individuals. That lawsuit resulted in the defendants entering into a settlement agreement in which they agreed to give up their campaign against Huntingdon Life Sciences Inc.

(Huntington New, 4/19/01)

## **Animal Research Saves Lives!**

**Coalition For Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR  
2001 Membership Application**

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I have enclosed a contribution of \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_

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