



*Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to pay \$20 billion+ for **wasteful** government animal experiments.*

September 2, 2022

Mr. Ronald A. Klain
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Klain:

After nearly forty years of public service, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is stepping down. On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, White Coat Waste Project (WCW) writes to encourage you to appoint a NIAID Director who will reduce animal experiments and embrace new technologies, thereby saving animal lives, reducing costs to taxpayers, and improving Americans' health.

Dr. Fauci's long service to the nation has been well documented. So too have NIAID's wasteful and cruel experiments on animals, including poisoning beagle puppies, feeding dogs to biting sand flies, infecting monkeys with Ebola Virus, and cutting dogs' vocal cords so they could not bark. Many of these experiments, revealed by WCW, subsequently made national and international news, casting an unfortunate pall over the doctor's legacy.

Animal experimentation comprises a significant part of NIAID's \$6 billion budget, with some tests unnecessarily performed solely to satisfy bureaucratic red tape. While other departments and agencies have made great strides to reduce their dependence on animal experiments, NIAID has doubled down.

When Dr. Fauci began his long career at NIAID, alternatives to animal testing barely existed. In the subsequent years, they have improved exponentially, with technologies like organs-on-a-chip and advanced computer modeling producing better and more replicable data than animal experiments, at a fraction of the cost. One of the reasons the COVID-19 vaccine was able to be developed so rapidly, and thus save many lives, was the fact that drug developers were not required to complete time-consuming and misleading animal tests prior to starting human trials.

Beyond financial concerns, animal testing is deeply unpopular with the American public. A majority oppose it, and a July 2022 poll found that 73% of respondents — Democrat, Republican, and Independent alike — supported bipartisan Congressional efforts to reduce experiments on dogs funded by the National Institutes of Health.

For the past several years, Congress has taken a keen interest in reducing taxpayer-funded animal experimentation. Commonsense guardrails on the use of dogs, cats and primates in experiments at the Department of Veterans Affairs have yielded significant decreases in these animals' usage. Other departments have launched similar initiatives. Under former Administrator Andrew Wheeler, the Environmental Protection Agency historically announced in 2019 that it would be phasing out all mammalian testing by 2035. The FDA has prioritized reducing animal testing, begun to relocate primates to sanctuaries upon the completion of experiments, and implemented a policy allowing taxpayers to adopt lab animals. WCW applauds these policy decisions, and hopes the NIH and its sub-agencies, including NIAID, will soon follow suit.

It is possible that dangerous and unchecked gain-of-function animal experiments in Wuhan, China funded by NIAID gave rise to the coronavirus pandemic. Reckless, cruel, and wasteful animal experiments can threaten human health, and must be reined in, as was recognized by President Barack Obama and then-Vice President Joe Biden when they laudably took action to halt funding for gain-of-function research in 2014. Whether or not the origins of the coronavirus pandemic are ever conclusively discovered, a forward-looking NIAID Director must recognize that science is evolving past animal testing and that the risks of gain-of-function outweigh any benefits, and take stringent precautions to ensure that NIAID-funded research will not jeopardize global health.

We hope that the next NIAID Director will learn from the mistakes of his predecessor, cease funding dangerous, cruel and wasteful animal experiments, and work to advance 'the science' beyond archaic animal tests.

I would be happy to discuss this issue with you further and can be reached at justin@whitecoatwaste.org and by phone at 860-882-2492.

Stop the money. Stop the madness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JG', written in a cursive style.

Justin Goodman
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy
White Coat Waste Project