



February 11, 2026

The Honorable Platte Moring
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

Submitted via email to: courtney.fones@dodig.mil

Dear Inspector General Moring,

On behalf of White Coat Waste (WCW), I am writing to follow up on the letter sent by Senator Joni Ernst on February 11, 2026, to provide additional evidence that Pentagon-funded animal laboratories are violating the Department of Defense's (DOD) COST Act.

As detailed below, multiple institutions have publicly promoted wasteful DOD-funded animal experiments and failed to properly disclose funding details in accordance with the spending transparency requirements enacted in the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act.

Examples of these violations include:

- **Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU):** OHSU's news site reports on experiments in which nonhuman primates were administered an experimental therapeutic and subsequently exposed to a monkey version of the HIV virus.¹ Federal spending databases indicate the DOD grants cited in the article have received at least **\$7.3 million** in taxpayer funding.² The dollar amount was not included in OHSU's publication, as required by law.
- **Emory University:** The Emory News Center highlights experiments involving the injection of synthetic mRNA into mice.³ Federal spending databases show the DOD agreement referenced in the related journal publication has received approximately **\$28.7 million** in taxpayer support.⁴ The dollar amount was not included in Emory's publication, as required by law.
- **Harvard University (Wyss Institute):** A post on Harvard's Wyss Institute website describes experiments in which traumatic brain injuries were intentionally induced in pigs.⁵ Federal spending databases reflect that the DOD agreement noted in the article received approximately **\$4.4 million** in taxpayer funds.⁶ The dollar amount was not included in Harvard's publication, as required by law.

¹ Study: [Single experimental shot reduces HIV levels 1,000-fold](#); OHSU News; Accessed: 2/11/26.

² DARPA Grant: [D17AC00009](#), \$7,342,887; U.S. Army Medical Infectious Disease Research Program Grant: MT19010.08.

³ [Emory researchers successfully use mRNA to activate genes](#); Emory News Site; Accessed: 2/11/26.

⁴ DARPA Agreement: [HR00111920008](#), \$28,734,050.

⁵ [Shining a light on the hidden damage of mild brain injuries](#); Wyss Institute; Accessed: 2/11/26.

⁶ Department of the Army Agreement: [W81XWH1920011](#), \$4,400,079.

- **University of California, Berkeley:** UC Berkeley Research News describes experiments in which bats underwent implantation of neural probes into their brains.⁷ Federal spending databases indicate the DOD grants acknowledged in the associated journal publication have received approximately **\$1.5 million** combined in taxpayer funding.⁸ The dollar amount was not included in UC Berkeley's publication, as required by law.

We respectfully urge your office to work with Senator Ernst to ensure full compliance with the COST Act and request that the DOD suspend taxpayer funding to any grantees that violate this statute.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at km@whitecoatwaste.org or 631-905-6553.

Sincerely,

Kailey Mauro

Kailey Mauro

Research & Investigations Associate
White Coat Waste

⁷ Scientists Uncover Neural Mechanisms Behind Long-Term Memory; UC Berkeley Research News; Accessed: 2/11/26.

⁸ Department of the Air Force Grant: FA95501710412, \$999,999; Office of Naval Research Grant: N000142112063, \$508,215.