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The NABR Update is a news summary of federal and state government affairs, animal rights activities, and other issues related to animal research that may have a direct effect on your organization or its constituents. It's an exclusive service available for NABR members only. If your organization is interested in joining NABR or if you have any questions or suggestions, please email us at info@nabr.org.

NHP ISSUE

ICYMI: NABR Files Expanded Petition Challenging the Listing of Long-Tailed Macaques by the IUCN

On Feb. 1, 2024, working with recognized, independent scientists, the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) filed an [expanded petition](#) with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) challenging the designation of the long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) as “endangered” or “vulnerable” under IUCN listing criteria.

On October 12, 2023, the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee accepted NABR’s initial petition challenging the IUCN’s 2022 designation of long-tailed macaques as “endangered.” NABR’s initial petition, filed with the IUCN on September 11, 2023, concluded that the underlying scientific justification for the

Endangered listing is “biased” and “not based upon the best available scientific information.”

Prior to July 2022, long-tailed macaques were designated as “vulnerable” by the IUCN. In 2022, the IUCN revised its designation to “endangered” based on a scientific review published by Hansen et al. (2022). The expanded NABR petition now calls for the IUCN to vacate both the “endangered” and “vulnerable” listings until “a new status assessment of *M. fascicularis* is conducted by truly independent scientists not involved in advocacy roles for the target species.”

The expanded NABR petition follows a recent publication in *The American Journal of Primatology*, a prominent scientific journal, that reviews scientific information used to determine the conservation status of the long-tailed macaque. This publication concludes that “none of the published literature cited to support the IUCN listing as Endangered presents any data to support the hypothesized decline, nor does the literature establish that the species is at risk of becoming extinct.”

“The NABR scientific review team is pleased that the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee will now objectively review this matter,” stated Dr. Ray Hilborn, a world-renowned scientist and member of NABR’s scientific review team.

“Given the misrepresentation of the data that has occurred in the 2022 and 2020 assessments, we expect that the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee will agree with our conclusions” added Dr. Hilborn.

The submission of NABR’s expanded petition initiates a formal process with the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee to review available scientific information concerning the species’ status under IUCN protocols.

Long-tailed macaques are the most widely used non-rodent species for drug development as well as for drug safety and efficacy testing. They are also

extensively used in cancer research, immunology science, regenerative medicine, and genetic disease research.

Long-tailed macaques are considered an invasive species in many countries including Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, and Thailand. For decades, Asian and African countries have bred specific pathogen-free long tailed macaques and exported them to the United States and other countries for biomedical research in laboratories.

“The NABR petition and 2023 article published in The American Journal of Primatology demonstrate that long-tailed macaques are neither endangered nor vulnerable, but rather a highly invasive species that thrives in the majority of countries where they live,” stated Matthew R. Bailey, president of the National Association for Biomedical Research.

“We call upon the IUCN Standards and Petitions Committee to vacate the improper listing of this species as either endangered or vulnerable and undertake a new status assessment of this species by independent scientists.”

More information regarding the NABR petition is available online at www.nabr.org.

FEDERAL

Members of Congress Introduce FDA Modernization Act 3.0

On Feb. 6, 2024, a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced the FDA Modernization Act 3.0. This bill would require the FDA to publish a final rule to implement the FDA Modernization Act 2.0, which was signed into law at the end of 2022. The intent of the FDA Mod Act 3.0 is for the FDA to establish guidelines for the use of non-animal models to prove the safety and efficacy of a drug.

A cursory review of the bill suggests it is primarily aimed at giving the Secretary of Health and Human Services, a politically-appointed position, authority to determine which nonclinical tests qualify and which nonclinical tests do not.

Bill text is available [here](#).

Director of NIH Accepts Recommendations to Catalyze the Use of Novel Alternative Methods

On Feb. 1, 2024, NIH Director, Dr. Monica Bertagnolli announced that the agency is accepting the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director (ACD) recommendations to catalyze the development and use of novel alternative methods.

Through its Novel Alternative Methods (NAMs) Working Group, the ACD consulted with experts in the field and reviewed input from the community to deliver a final report in December 2023.

Leveraging these recommendations and building upon existing NIH efforts, the NIH Common Fund has proposed a research program called Complement Animal Research in Experimentation (Complement-ARIE) that aims to accelerate the development of NAM technologies and build a suite of tools that could complement, or in some cases, replace traditional models for researchers to study human biology and disease. This program received concept clearance from the NIH Council of Councils at its January 25, 2024, meeting.

Following the announcement, Politico released an article titled, “The NIH Plan to Spare the Animals.” In the article, current research at the NIH using NAMs “in tandem with animal studies” is discussed.

According to the article, “The working group was formed after Congress directed the NIH to assess alternative research methods to better understand gaps in them and additional needs. Some members of Congress have also

called for a review of animal-based research at NIH and the discontinuation of animal testing.”

The full article is available [here](#).

More information can be found [here](#).

Dr. Bertagnolli’s statement can be seen [here](#).

The full report is available [here](#).

STATE

Maryland Bill: Testing Facilities That Use Animals – Licensing and Regulation

On Feb. 1, 2024, Maryland state Senators Kramer, Lam, Lewis Young, and Waldstreicher introduced SB761, a bill concerning licensing and regulations for entities using animals in research.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Require each testing facility in the State to be licensed by the Department of Agriculture to use animals in research, education, or testing;
 - Establish requirements for the use and treatment of dogs or cats by a testing facility;
 - Prohibit a testing facility from using certain dogs and cats for research or testing purposes and performing certain procedures on dogs or cats;
 - Prohibit a testing facility from using traditional animal test methods under certain circumstances;
 - Prohibit a testing facility from conducting a canine or feline toxicological experiment under certain circumstances;
 - Apply certain provisions of law regarding the adoption of dogs and cats used for scientific research purposes to testing facilities;
 - Establish a State Inspector of Animal Welfare in the Department to inspect certain testing facilities;
 - Require a testing facility to notify the State Inspector of certain violations;
 - Require a school or an institution of higher education that uses animals for certain purposes to submit a report on the results of certain inspections to the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year;
 - Establish the Animals in Research Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund;
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- Require interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; and generally relating to testing facilities that use animals in research, education, or testing.

Bill text is available [here](#).

Michigan Attorney General Recognized by PCRM

On Jan. 24, 2024, Ryan Merkley, director of research advocacy for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, recognized Attorney General Dana Nessel with the Leadership in Government award for advocating for laboratory animals in Michigan.

In the press release, AG Nessel said, “I am honored to receive this award and to have an opportunity to provide a voice for the voiceless. How we treat animals in our society is a reflection of our values. The Michigan Department of Attorney General is committed to ensuring the humane treatment of animals, safeguarding their well-being, and defending animals against unnecessary violence and misery.”

As NABR previously reported, AG Nessel issued a formal AG opinion in May of 2022, calling on the Michigan Legislature to create standards for the humane treatment of animals used in medical research.

The press release is available [here](#).

The formal AG opinion can be found [here](#).

ANIMAL RIGHTS NEWS

PETA Continues to Stun: Pushes for “Ten Vegan Commandments” to be Posted in Classrooms

PETA recently sent a letter to an Oklahoma state representative asking him to

introduce legislation requiring the “Ten Vegan Commandments” to be displayed in public school classrooms. This is a response to a bill introduced in the state of Oklahoma that would require the Ten Commandments to be displayed in Oklahoma public school classrooms.

Number 8 of the *Ten Vegan Commandments* states, “Thou shalt not support or conduct any experiment that inflicts pain and fear on an animal nor participate in animal dissection.”

More information is available [here](#).

Host of the “Dog Research Exposed” Podcast Launches 2024 Road Tour Targeting Research Facilities

Ellie Hansen, a writer, podcast producer, and animal rights advocate, recently announced a “Dog Research Exposed Tour 2024”. During the tour, Hansen intends to travel around the U.S. and stop at research facilities that use canine models biomedical research.

According to the website, the “Dog Research Exposed Podcast” is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to disseminating information related to ending the cruel and outdated practice of using dogs in chemical and biomedical research worldwide.

The list of cities/dates is available [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NABR Webinar: “One Health and Animal Research: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”

Please join us on Tuesday, April 16th, at 12:30 p.m. EST when Jerrold Tannenbaum returns to our webinar series with a presentation titled: “One Health and Animal Research: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.” “One Health” is today the most influential organizing concept in the medical sciences. From the American Veterinary Medical Association, to the American Medical Association, to the World Health Organization, One Health is proclaimed — and

virtually universally accepted — as both the primary goal of, and the underlying methodological approach used in medical and veterinary research, education, and practice.

This webinar will describe the crucial role laboratory animal research played in the development of the concept of One Medicine, the historical precursor of One Health. The discussion will review differing approaches to One Health and will discuss how biomedical animal research can be an important component of some of these approaches. The webinar will also highlight current approaches to One Health that provide challenges to laboratory animal research. These include the increasing use of privately owned animals, mainly pet cats and dogs, in clinical studies and trials. Of greater concern are approaches to One Health that diminish the importance of human and animal research that benefits human health; would require the diversion of critical resources away from animal research; incorporate concepts of “health” (such as environmental health, ecosystem health, or planetary health) that are unhelpful and may be incoherent; and include societal or geopolitical considerations that have no clear connection to science-driven biomedical research.

The webinar will examine how the biomedical research community can recognize, and counter approaches to One Health that are inimical to or threaten animal research. The discussion will suggest ways the community can support and engage in approaches to One Health that appropriately benefit people, animals, and the environment.

Registration for the webinar is available [here](#).

[AAALAC International 2024 Bennett J. Cohen Award - Call for Nominations](#)

Now through Mar. 31, 2024, AAALAC International is calling for nominations for the AAALAC International Bennett J. Cohen Award. This award recognizes outstanding individuals who have, through their exceptional service and significant contributions to AAALAC International, demonstrated a strong and abiding commitment to advancing animal welfare and science through the promotion of the highest standards of animal care in research, testing, and education.

The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2024.

Information including the nomination form and instructions can be accessed [here](#).

Lasker Foundation: Medical Essay Contest

The Lasker Foundation is sponsoring a medical essay contest, promoted by the Journal of Clinical Investigation. This contest is a career-building opportunity for medical students/ biomedical research fellows/ grad students in the health science professions. The contest is sponsored by clients at the prestigious Lasker Foundation – *home to the Lasker Award that has been regarded as America's preeminent biomedical research prize for nearly 80 years.*

Submissions for the Essay Contest are accepted now through early April 2024.

Each year, the Lasker student essay contest attracts several hundred talented, early-career medical students and researchers, brings them under the Lasker umbrella, invites them to hone their communication skills, and provides several winners with up to \$5,000 to offset university expenses, along with a resume-building opportunity. Winning essays will also be published in the July 2024

issue of the Journal of Clinical Investigation and on the Lasker Foundation website.

More information can be found [here](#).

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