

January 10, 2005

Dr. Thomas Insel, Director
National Institute of Mental Health
National Institutes of Health
Neuroscience Center, Room 8235
6001 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20892

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Public Policy Analyst

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
Tel: (202) 336-5920
Fax: (202) 216-7628
federation@fbpcs.org
<http://www.thefederationonline.org>

Dr. Duane Alexander, Director
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
National Institutes of Health
31 Center Drive, Suite 200
Bethesda, MD 20892-2082

Dear Drs. Insel and Alexander:

As you are aware, The University of Iowa's Department of Psychology animal labs were vandalized on November 14 by members of the extremist group Animal Liberation Front (ALF). Seven behavioral science researchers and their labs were targeted by ALF, resulting in the destruction of computers and paper files and the removal of over 400 laboratory animals. Monetary damages have been estimated in the tens of thousands of dollars, while non-monetary damages, including the destruction of years of scientific investigation and effort, are priceless and irreplaceable. We know that you appreciate the consequences of such extensive damage to a laboratory. The Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Director of an Institute responsible for funding a portion of the research that was destroyed, for your past and continued support of animal research and the targeted researchers at The University of Iowa.

The Federation believes that the ALF attacks on The University of Iowa are nothing less than acts of domestic terrorism. These crimes against scientific research are more sophisticated and dangerous than random acts of vandalism, and must receive serious attention from the proper authorities. We have sent a letter (enclosed) to Robert S. Mueller III, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which demonstrates our support for the National Institutes of Health, for science, for the use of animals as experimental subjects, and for all researchers who work under the continuous threat of domestic terrorism.

Again, thank you for your Institute's support of our researchers. Please let us know if we can be of assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Wanchisen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Barbara A. Wanchisen, PhD
Executive Director
Email: bwanchisen@fbpcs.org
Office: 202.336.5921

Cc: Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health
Dr. David Abrams, Director, Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research, NIH

Enclosure (1): Letter sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation