



October 20, 2015



Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to share some disturbing information about one of your neighbors that is especially upsetting if you object to animal abuse. You may not know that Francis Collins, who lives at [REDACTED] and is the director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), allows baby monkeys to be removed from their loving mothers, tormented, and deliberately scared senseless in cruel psychological experiments at an NIH laboratory in Poolesville. Dr. Jane Goodall and other scientists have condemned these experiments, and neuroscientists have called them worthless.

As you may have seen in reports by CBS News, NPR, and other news outlets, NIH's experiments—which have been going on for more than 30 years—involve breeding infant monkeys to be prone to mental illness and then inducing lifelong psychological trauma. Many of these babies are locked alone inside tiny metal cages and given nothing more than a cloth-covered bottle as a “surrogate” to cling to. They have been subjected to years of frightening and painful experiments—which have included being scared by fake snakes, masked human “intruders,” and loud noises and addicted to alcohol—to deliberately worsen their profound depression, anxiety, fear, social withdrawal, and other mental illness. Some of the babies in these experiments become so disturbed that they engage in self-harm, such as biting themselves and pulling out their hair.

You can read more about NIH's experiments and view disturbing videos and photographs of them taken by NIH staff at www.peta.org/NIHChildAbuse.

These experiments cost taxpayers millions of dollars each year, even though they have never improved treatments for human mental illness and have been superseded by modern non-animal research methods. For all these reasons, mental-health professionals, researchers, and several members of Congress are calling for an end to these experiments.

I wouldn't be writing this letter if I didn't believe that your assistance could help save monkeys from terrible suffering. I realize that what I'm asking is a bit unusual, but I am hoping that you, as Francis Collins' neighbor, will ask him (in person or by letter, phone, or e-mail) to redirect his efforts to superior and humane non-animal research methods. You can reach him directly at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. If he gives you any information that you'd like to discuss with us, please contact me at any time at 757-803-6447 or AlkaC@peta.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
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