

Subject: <no subject>

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Please formulate a 5 year plan transitionning to using non-animal tests in research. The world of knowledge has changed greatly over recent decades and many proven non-animal techniques now exist but scientists somehow continue to use many antiquated and inhumane animal models in their research. Animals are customary tools but in fact are not ideal models for human physiology and in many instances non-animal techniques would be much more appropriate and also spare the lives and suffering of thousands of innocent living creatures. Europe has adopted and proven the effectiveness of far more non-animal methods than the US has and I feel it reflects our society's lack of compassion and sensitivity as well as our lack of creativity and willingness to change and is an embarrassment.

Years ago, though flawed as well as cruel, animal models were used because other techniques didn't exist but now they do. We should invest more time and effort into finding better and better non-animal techniques and require the use of the non-animal techniques that are now known and used abroad and wherever possible start rapidly phasing out all use of animals in research. I feel that continued use of animals is not only dangerous as drugs helpful to animals but dangerous to humans get released into the market and drugs useless in animals but potentially valuable to humans get rejected, but, if truly considered with an open mind, it is also extremely cruel and unethical to cause such suffering to helpless creatures.

I'm a physician and follow the research literature and am dismayed by how many unnecessary and inherently cruel animal studies are being carried out across the country. The current approach to this issue just isn't working and I feel we have to take a much more aggressive role in developing non-animal techniques, demanding the use of non-animal tests whenever possible, and in screening and rejecting any unnecessary proposed animal research protocols. I look forward to seeing your new 5 year plan and hope it will be one which advances these concerns. Thank you.

Marge Peppercorn MD