

## Amerikansk forsvar for dyreforsøg Statement of National and Voluntary Health Organizations

*April 21, 1988*

We, the representatives of the undersigned national and voluntary health organizations, wish to reaffirm our support for the continued use of animals in biomedical research and testing. We ask that the patient's point-of-view be considered in the public discussion on the use of animals in biomedical research and testing. Our organizations serve the needs of millions of Americans who have been or may be, in the future, afflicted with devastating diseases and medical conditions for which there are as yet no cures but on treatment of limited effectiveness. While great strides have been made in the understanding, prevention and treatment of diseases, there still is much to be learned. Much of that research relies on laboratory animals. We support only the highest standards of laboratory animal care and we encourage the use of all appropriate research methods, including cell and tissue cultures and computer models. However, only one type of research has been under attack consistently. Animal research has been the target of a very public campaign by activists who dismiss its importance to scientific progress.

We reject the characterization of animal research as unnecessary, for we have seen the life-saving and life-enhancing benefits of such research. We recognize that there is much to be learned from animal experimentation that cannot be achieved in other ways. Thus, we take strong exception to the position of those people who would halt medical progress towards relieving human suffering, which would be the result should research with animals be impeded. The abandonment of animal research would be an abrogation of our primary responsibility – to try to save human lives.

Should animal research be lost to the scientific community, the victims would not be the scientists. The victims would be people: ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our fellow man. Human life is at stake; human suffering is at issue.

We call upon all Americans to recognize the importance of the use of animals to continued progress in biomedical research and ask that the perspective of those of us who already suffer from diseases and conditions – but who hope for a brighter medical future – be entered in the public debate on this issue, for our hope for a brighter medical future may well hang in balance.

Signatories

*Acoustic Neuroma Association*  
*American Cancer Society*  
*American Diabetes Association*  
*American Heart Association*  
*American Kidney Fund*  
*American Leprosy Foundation*  
*American Liver Foundation*  
*American Porphyria Foundation*  
*Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association*  
*Ankylosing Spondylitis Association*  
*Arthritis Foundation*  
*Benign Blepharospasm Research Foundation*  
*CFS Research Foundation*  
*Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome Association*  
*Chronic Fatigue Information Institute*  
*Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society*  
*Cystic Fibrosis Foundation*  
*Dysautonomia Foundation*  
*Dystonia Medical Research Foundation*  
*Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of America (DEBRA)*  
*Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation*  
*Epilepsy Foundation of America*  
*Epstein-Barr Foundation*  
*Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy*  
*Guillain-Barre' Syndrome Support Group International*  
*Hemochromatosis Research Foundation*  
*Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Foundation, Inc.*  
*Huntington's Disease Society of America*  
*Immune Deficiency Foundation*  
*Incurably Ill for Animal Research*

*International Rett Syndrome Association*  
*Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International*  
*Leukemia Society of America*  
*Lowe's Syndrome Association, Inc.*  
*Lupus Foundation of America*  
*Myasthenia Gravis Foundation*  
*Narcolepsy Network*  
*National Alliance for the Mentally Ill*  
*National Coalition for Research in Neurological and Communicative Disorders*  
*National Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Association*  
*National Depressive and Manic Depressive Association*  
*National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasia*  
*National Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis, Inc.*  
*National Foundation for Peroneal Muscular Atrophy (NFPMA)*  
*National Head Injury Foundation*

*National Health Council*  
*National Hydrocephalus Foundation*  
*National Kidney Foundation*  
*National Marfan Foundation*  
*National Multiple Sclerosis Society*  
*National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc.*  
*National Tay Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc.*  
*Parkinson's Diseases Foundation, Inc.*  
*Scleroderma Federation, Inc.*  
*Scleroderma International Foundation*  
*Sturge-Weber Foundation*  
*Turners Syndrome Society*  
*United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation*  
*United Leukodystrophy Foundation*  
*United Parkinson Foundation*  
*United Scleroderma Foundation*  
*Wilson's Disease Association*

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