



June 25, 2020

Mr. Michael Catalano  
Interim Chief Operating Officer  
Southern Research Institute  
2000 9th Ave. South  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
Via email: [mcatalano@uasystem.edu](mailto:mcatalano@uasystem.edu)

Dear Mr. Catalano,

On behalf of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), including our membership in Alabama, I am writing to relay our concern regarding troubling evidence of animal suffering taking place at Southern Research Institute and to respectfully ask that you consider ending the experiments taking place that cause this suffering.

#### **Document We Reviewed**

In formulating the recommendation below in this letter, NEAVS reviewed Southern Research Institute's F.Y. 2019 APHIS Form 7023 Column E Explanation, which was made available for public inspection in 2019 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS).

#### **Finding: 79 Rhesus Macaques Underwent Whole Body Irradiation**

The document we reviewed reveals that in an approved protocol at Southern Research Institute, 79 nonhuman primates went through whole body irradiation to study the effects of antibiotics after exposure to a "dirty bomb" or "nuclear accident." These animals were forced to undergo experiments that are inherently painful and distressful, without a guarantee of full relief of pain and distress, which is why they were categorized as being in the Column E pain category.

#### **Request: Terminate Funding for Whole Body Irradiation Experiments**

While this test may have been conducted in compliance with existing Animal Welfare laws and regulations, that should not be the minimum standard for animal welfare under your leadership at Southern Research Institute. This inherently painful experiment may have been tolerated in the past at your institution, but the suffering inherent to this crude research warrants your intervention to immediately end cruel whole body irradiation experiments at SRI and to enact a policy against allowing the funding of any similar research protocols in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Nathan Herschler, Executive Director  
New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS)