

XENOTRANSPLANTATION SUBMISSION KIT

Xenotransplantation – What It Really Means:

The following information was taken from the website Diaries of Despair (www.xenodiaries.org) and concerns horrific xenotransplantation experiments. The following is just an excerpt:

“Between 1994 and 2000, hundreds of higher primates were subjected to grotesque 'xenotransplantation' experiments. Hearts and kidneys from genetically engineered piglets were transplanted into the necks, abdomens and chests of monkeys and baboons captured from the wild.

The primates were then injected and force-fed massive doses of immune-suppressing drugs in a vain attempt to prevent the alien organs from being rejected. The results were truly appalling.



Credit: Organ Farm



Credit: Organ Farm

The research was conducted by a biotechnology company, **Imutran Ltd**, which is a subsidiary of the multinational drug firm **Novartis Pharma AG**, in collaboration with the **University of Cambridge**. The experiments took place at the controversial **Huntingdon Life Sciences¹** laboratories.

Unique revelations: The report and campaign are called ‘Diaries of Despair’ in recognition of the severe suffering inflicted on hundreds of primates revealed in the researchers’ own detailed records.*

The leaked confidential documents give a historically unprecedented insight into the disturbing world of vivisection. The main initial goal of the Diaries of Despair campaign is for the establishment of **an independent judicial inquiry** to investigate the incriminating evidence of Government malpractice and collusion, and to prevent such cruelty from being repeated.”

*** Notes from Xenotransplantation “Diaries of Despair”:**

Baboon X240f:

- Day 1** “Quiet but alert.”
- Day 4** “...active if approached.”
- Day 11** “...active if stimulated.”
- Day 25** “...slow movements.”
- Day 28** “Small soft gingival swelling.”
- Day 32** “Vomit in cage.”
- Day 48** “...clinging to cage front.”
- Day 58** “Large vomit in cage.”
- Day 73** “Quiet on cage floor...”
- Day 81** “Quiet, eyes partially closed...
Appears tired and weak.”
- Day 95** “Body and head tremors.”

Day 98 “Reluctant to move.”

Day 99 “Sacrificed...”

Baboon X205m:

- Day 1** “Quiet”
- Day 2** “Transplanted heart possibly fibrillating.”
- Day 5** “Vomit on cage floor.”
- Day 11** “Transplanted heart seems very large and possibly discomfoting animal.”
- Day 14** “...swollen and red, seeping yellow fluid.”
- Day 20** “Keeps holding area where transplanted heart is.”
- Day 21** “...sacrificed.”

This horror MUST NOT be allowed to happen in Australia!

To help with your submission, you might like to include some (or all) of the following points:

Ethical & Moral:

- Vivisection began because of religious prohibitions against the dissection of human corpses. By the time these prohibitions were finally lifted, the practice of animal vivisection for medical, cosmetic and military purposes was deeply entrenched in various institutions within our society.
- Religious teachings dictate problems with crossing the species barrier (putting animal tissues into

¹ Please see enclosed leaflet about Huntingdon Life Sciences Laboratories.

human beings) however some major religious bodies do not substantiate this view by stating that nothing has been referred to in the Bible. We argue however that xenotransplantation (or even its concept) did not exist two thousand years ago when the Bible was written!

- Animal experimentation is both cruel and unnecessary. We have absolutely no right to put innocent animals through torture and pain for the perceived benefit of human beings.
- We do not have the moral or ethical right to breed animals solely for the supply of their body parts or tissues for xenotransplantation.
- “...it is important first to dispute the right to use non-human animals as tools for research and indeed to be farmed for ‘spare parts’. Because of this view, it may be noted that we refer to the use of source animals rather than donor animals throughout this document. This is due to the fact that they are not providing consent and are therefore not donating their organs.” -- *Humane Charities Australia – Xenotransplantation Submission*.

Medical Grounds & Transmission of Disease:

- It appears that xenotransplantation is being considered because of the apparent lack of human tissue, cell and organ donations available to patients awaiting transplantation. Actively campaigning on the merits of organ donation is a far cheaper alternative and by far a more humane method. The scheme known as “presumed consent system” is indicated on drivers licences (if you don’t indicate “no” you are presumed to consent to participating in organ donation) and has increased donation rates, as evidenced in European countries. The British Medical Association is eager to have this scheme introduced into Britain. It also a far more ethical method than using animals as people and their families can consent to the use of their organs (and other tissues) to benefit mankind.
- Even if the problem of organ rejection was solved, it is highly questionable whether animal organs would actually be capable of sustaining human life and health. Apart from one case of a patient who received a chimpanzee's heart and survived for nine months, all recipients of animal organs have remained very ill until they died. The innumerable variations in the physiology, biochemistry and pharmacology of organs from different species are not fully known but are likely to mean that xenotransplantation cannot succeed. -- *BUAV Website http://www.buav.org/f_campaign.html*.
- Another of the most serious risks associated with xenotransplantation is that of disease transmission from source animals to human patients and the wider population. Animal viruses have passed to humans many times in the past and are believed to have caused outbreaks of influenza, Marburg and Ebola disease as well as AIDS.
- Pig endogenous retroviruses (PERVs) - possibly the most high-risk type of virus - were only discovered in 1997 and have been shown to infect human cells in culture. If xenotransplantation was to take place, major new epidemics of a disease for which we would have absolutely no cure, could not be ruled out. Such a disease could remain latent and undetectable in the human body for years or could even mutate excessively so that detection and treatment are further complicated. The simple truth is that we may not know the consequences until it's too late, but what we do know is that the potential for a global health risk is undeniably real. - *Langley, G. & D'Silva, J. (1998). Animal organs in humans: uncalculated risks and unanswered questions*
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or “mad cow disease” is another form of documented “species jumping”. This is a virus “that appears to have originated from scrapie, an endemic spongiform encephalopathy of sheep and goats that has been recognized in Europe since the mid-18th century.” Further “Cattle carcasses and carcass wastes were then recycled through the rendering plants, increasing the levels of the now cattle-adapted pathogen in the protein supplement and eventually causing a full-scale BSE epidemic”².
- Further indication of viruses crossing the species barrier is the transmission of SARS (Severe Acute

² Brown P, Bradley R. 1755 and all that: a historical primer of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. *BMJ* 1998; 317:1688-92.

Respiratory Syndrome) where coronavirus antibodies found in workers who handled exotic animals in markets in southern China. The theory that the disease [SARS] “jumped” from animals to humans has been recognised by World Health Organisation scientists.

- Before a procedure would be considered for an animal to human transplantation trial extensive research would be required in animal-to-animal transplantation causing extreme suffering and cruelty and the death of numerous animals.
- Researches are working out the science of animal to human transplantation...[xenotransplantation] would only be attempted if the animal to animal studies show successful outcomes. What constitutes a “successful outcome”?
- Animal Ethics Committees will not protect animals (or humans) from any experiments that may be put forward for research. Threats that research will go “offshore” if not authorised in Australia does not make a procedure right or ethical. It merely promotes glory or monetary gains for certain individuals and “it’s the dog or your baby” mentality.
- Animal experiments for xenotransplantation will divert funding from other organ research eg human organ donation, health education and palliative care facilities, etc.
- Researchers involved in xenotransplantation (and all other experimentation) are required to sign confidentiality agreements. This then limits the amount of shared information between research institutions. Therefore all researchers are competing against each other in trying to be the “first” to perfect a technique. Unfortunately this involves the death of hundreds of thousands of animals.

Quotations from the Medical Profession:

- Ask the experimenters why they experiment on animals, and the answer is: "Because the animals are like us." Ask the experimenters why it is morally OK to experiment on animals, and the answer is: "Because the animals are not like us." Animal experimentation rests on a logical contradiction. - *Professor Charles R. Magel (1920-)*
- Results from animal tests are not transferable between species, and therefore cannot guarantee product safety for humans... In reality these tests do not provide protection for consumers from unsafe products, but rather they are used to protect corporations from legal liability. - *Herbert Gundersheimer, MD, member, PCRM (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine), Baltimore, Maryland, 1988*
- "Everyone should know that most cancer research is largely a fraud, and that the major cancer research organisations are derelict in their duties to the people who support them" - *Dr Linus Pauling, twice nobel prize-winner, quoted in 'Vivisection Unveiled', Dr T Page, p43*
- "Conclusions drawn from animal research when applied to human disease are likely to delay progress, mislead, and do harm to the patient." - *Dr Monheim Fadali [Brandon Reines 'Heart research on Animals']*
- "All our knowledge about structure, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of cancer in man comes from those who have tackled the problem with clinical methods. This knowledge owes nothing to animal experiments." - *Prof Hastings Gilford in the Lancet [15/7/33]*
- "There really exists no logical basis for translating the results of animals to man." - *Dr L Goldberg [Quantative Method in Human Pharmacology and Therapeutics, 1959]*
- "The idea, as I understand it is that fundamental truths are revealed in laboratory experimentation upon lower animals and are then applied to the problems of the sick patient...It is plain nonsense." - *Sir George Pickering, University of Oxford, in British Medical Journal [26/12/64 p1615]*
- "It would be very difficult to find anything that could be more misleading for biomedical research than animal experimentation." - *Prof Pietro Croce*

Quotations from Vivisectors:

- *"The human species is different from all other species" - Prof J Martin, vivisector [6/9/95, Frontline, Channel 4]*
- *I had bought two male chimps from a primate colony in Holland. They lived next to each other in separate cages for several months before I used one as a [heart] donor. When we put him to sleep in his cage in preparation for the operation, he chattered and cried incessantly. We attached no significance to this, but it must have made a great impression on his companion, for when we removed the body to the operating room, the other chimp wept bitterly and was inconsolable for days. The incident made a deep impression on me. I vowed never again to experiment with such sensitive creatures. – Christian Barnard. (Heart Transplant Surgeon) Good Life, Good Death.*
- *"One of the most dramatic examples of misleading evidence from animal data is provided by the studies on fluroxene...If these experiments had been carried out 20 years earlier, the agent would never have been released." - M J Halsey (vivisector) [General anaesthesia, Gray, Utting and Nunn, p152]*

Additional Material:

A further two NHMRC documents "Animal-to-human transplantation research: A guide for the community" and "Animal-to-human transplantation research: How should Australia proceed?" are available from www.nhmrc.gov.au **or** Project Officer Xenotransplantation, Health Ethics Section, HRMRC (MDP 100) GPO Box 9848, Canberra, ACT 2601

Xenotransplantation Information Sources:

- Anti Vivisection WA (Inc): www.avwa.com.au
- BUAV: www.buav.org.uk
- Diaries of Despair: www.xenodiaries.org
- Humane Charities Australia (Inc): www.humanecharities.org.au
- Seriously Ill Against Vivisection: www.siav.org
- Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty: www.shac.net

Address for Submission:

Project Officer - Xenotransplantation,
Health Ethics Section,
NRMRC (MDP 100)
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601

The closing date for the receipt of Submissions is Friday 12 March 2004.

Six Important Things to Remember:

1. Clearly state your name and address in your submission.
2. Clearly indicate the title of the submission - Animal-to-Human Transplantation (Xenotransplantation) Research in Australia.
3. Clearly indicate that you **oppose** xenotransplantation.
4. Sign your submission.
5. Ensure your submission is posted **before** the due date – 12 March 2004.
6. If you need further help please contact:

Anti Vivisection WA (Inc)
PO Box 1366, East Victoria Park, 6101
Facsimile: (08) 9470 4155
Email: avwa@tnet.com.au

Now its up to YOU!