

Hugh Brady
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Bristol

13 April 2022

Via e-mail: vc-epa@bristol.ac.uk

Dear Professor Brady:

I recently performed in Bristol, and it's come to my attention that a cruel, useless experiment called the forced swim test is being conducted at your university. I am therefore writing to add my name to the tens of thousands of other PETA supporters who have already contacted you about these experiments and to urge you to put an end to them.

As you are no doubt aware, this test forces rats to experience the fear of drowning. Researchers put the small animals into inescapable beakers of water, in which they have no choice but to paddle frantically as they search for an escape.

This experiment not only terrifies the animals but also hinders the development of successful treatments for human conditions. The scientists at PETA tell me that these experiments are used in attempts study human conditions such as depression but that the test is not required or beneficial for producing new antidepressant treatments for humans. This leaves one question: why are these experiments continuing at the University of Bristol?

I'm urging you to listen to the science and end these tests immediately. By doing so, the University of Bristol would be joining King's College London and major pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, AstraZeneca, and Johnson & Johnson, which have all confirmed that they will not conduct forced swim experiments following a campaign by PETA entities.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rylance', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mark Rylance