



Professor David Richardson  
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PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Via email: [D.Richardson@uea.ac.uk](mailto:D.Richardson@uea.ac.uk)

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Dear Professor Richardson:

[Info@peta.org.uk](mailto:Info@peta.org.uk)

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK and our more than 1.3 million members and supporters, to provide you with a copy of our [Research Modernisation Deal](#) (RMD).<sup>1</sup> PETA's RMD provides a strategy for modernising research and moving away from experiments on animals. As a world leading research institution, who "fully support the development, validation and adoption of appropriate alternatives to the use of animals, in order to minimise the use of animals in research",<sup>2</sup> I am positive that our RMD will be of interest to you. In particular, our RMD identifies strategic priorities, and immediate and near-term opportunities for ending and replacing the use of animals in biomedical research, regulatory testing, and education.

As I am sure you are aware, there is an urgent need to modernise biomedical research away from the use of animals, with growing scientific consensus that far more is to be gained – scientifically and economically – from enhanced support for human-relevant research methods and technology that are better suited to solving human biomedical and regulatory assessment paradigms than from reliance on animal studies.

The University of East Anglia website stats that "[a]s part of the commitment to the ethical standards of animals in research, the alternatives to the use of animals have to be explored first before any project license is issued."<sup>3</sup> In view of this and your support for the adoption of alternatives to animal use, we were disappointed to read about a recent study carried out at the University of East Anglia, namely: [Fecal microbiota transfer between young and aged mice reverses hallmarks of the aging gut, eye, and brain](#) published in *Microbiome*.<sup>4</sup> It is highly concerning that this study passed the University's Animal Welfare Ethical Review Board (AWERB) given the prevalence of human clinical data available for this nature of work. It is also concerning because your university is a signatory of the Concordat on Openness in Animal Research in the UK,<sup>5</sup> and so the general public could be mistaken into thinking that animal use was the only option for this study.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter with you further and would be grateful if you would share this letter with your institution's AWERB.

I respectfully request to hear from you regarding this matter within the next four weeks and thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



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PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
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Registered in England and Wales  
as charity number 1056453,  
company number 3135903.

**Affiliates**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands

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## References

- <sup>1</sup> People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Research Modernisation Deal. (2020). <https://www.peta.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PETA-Research-Modernisation-Deal-UK-EU-V1.3.pdf>. Accessed 05 May 2021.
- <sup>2</sup> University of East Anglia. Animal Research Concordat. <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/university-policies/animal-research-concordat#:~:text=Animal%20research%20at%20the%20University%20of%20East%20Anglia&text=All%20of%20our%20research%20is,use%20of%20animals%20in%20research>. Accessed 05 May 2021.
- <sup>3</sup> University of East Anglia. Animal Research Concordat. <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/university-policies/animal-research-concordat#:~:text=Animal%20research%20at%20the%20University%20of%20East%20Anglia&text=All%20of%20our%20research%20is,use%20of%20animals%20in%20research>. Accessed 05 May 2021.
- <sup>4</sup> Parker, A., Romano, S., Ansorge, R. et al. Fecal microbiota transfer between young and aged mice reverses hallmarks of the aging gut, eye, and brain. *Microbiome* 10, 68 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-022-01243-w>. Accessed 05 May 2021.
- <sup>5</sup> University of East Anglia. Animal Research Concordat. <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/university-policies/animal-research-concordat#:~:text=Animal%20research%20at%20the%20University%20of%20East%20Anglia&text=All%20of%20our%20research%20is,use%20of%20animals%20in%20research>. Accessed 05 May 2021.