

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH FUNDING OF FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS

Americans are unwittingly funding fraud, waste, and animal abuse.

PETA



NIH FUNDS HUNDREDS OF FOREIGN RESEARCH PROJECTS

In FY2022, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent \$279 million to fund 766 research grants in 66 countries, including China, Brazil, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. These awards covered both animal and non-animal research.

From FY2018 to FY2022, NIH gave \$1.42 billion to foreign research organizations. It keeps the names of the laboratories that use animals secret, not releasing them to the public.

NO OVERSIGHT, AUDITS, OR ACCOUNTABILITY

Foreign research organizations that receive annual funding totaling less than \$750,000 are exempt from NIH audits of their records for that year. Ninety percent of grants awarded in the last five fiscal years fall within this category. Although NIH could request that these awardees make their grant-related records available for review or audit, it's unclear whether or how often it does so.

NIH disburses funds to foreign institutions without verifying that the claims in awardees' grant applications and progress reports are true.

DIFFERENT STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN LABORATORIES

All NIH-funded U.S. animal laboratories are inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and/or the private accreditor the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. No one from NIH or any U.S. agency inspects foreign-funded animal laboratories, nor does NIH require inspections by any local regulatory authority.

Research institutions in the U.S. are required to report violations of the Public Health Service *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. NIH-funded foreign institutions are not.

Every NIH-funded U.S. animal laboratory must have an institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) to review proposed experiments and ensure

compliance with laws and regulations. Foreign animal laboratories that receive direct funding from NIH are not required to have an IACUC or any other similar committee.

THIS IS WHAT CAN GO WRONG: A ROGUE COLOMBIAN LAB RAKES IN MILLIONS OF U.S. TAX DOLLARS

Since 2003, NIH has given more than \$17 million to two organizations in Colombia for projects that include experiments on monkeys. Following an [exposé by PETA](#), three different Colombian government agencies launched investigations into the heads of these organizations with regard to cruelty to animals, a lack of permits to experiment on and breed monkeys used in malaria research, the apparent illegal capture of a vulnerable monkey species, and other alleged criminal activity.

As a result of the investigation, officials ordered the suspension of the experiments, took over the facility where the animals were being housed, and are now preparing to seize the monkeys and transfer them to a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center. **Yet NIH has not committed to cutting off their funding.**

NIH ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION

PETA's 18-month investigation found that husband-and-wife Colombian experimenters Sócrates Herrera and Myriam Arévalo confine tiny owl monkeys to rusty cages amid their own waste in a makeshift pen made of backyard fencing and plastic sheeting. These conditions violate both Colombian law and NIH requirements. PETA also uncovered allegations of questionable business practices, such as children "serving" on the board of directors, the lack of a properly established ethics committee to review research protocols involving animals and humans, manipulation of data, and mishandling of human samples.

NIH SCIENTISTS ARE COLLABORATING WITH THE VIOLATORS

NIH isn't just funding the Colombian experimenters—its scientists are also working with them. Herrera has collaborative agreements with the chief of the Malaria Immunology Section in the Laboratory of Malaria and Vector Research at NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

NIH has not shown itself to be capable of properly monitoring foreign laboratories.



For more information, please contact **George McElwee** at gmcElwee@commonwealthstrategic.com. Thank you.

February 2023

PETA