

Dr. Gordon Gee, President, Ohio State University
Office of the President, 205 Bricker Hall
190 North Oval Mall; Columbus, OH 43210-1357
ph: 614-292-2424; fax: 614-292-1231; email: gordon.gee@osu.edu
Dr. Herb Asher, Counselor to the President: asher.1@osu.edu
Kate Wolford, Assistant to the President and Director of Operations: wolford.4@osu.edu
Sondra Shook, Administrative Assistant to the President: shook.77@osu.edu

Office of Responsible Research Practices (ORRP)
The Ohio State University, 300 Research Foundation Building
1960 Kenny Road; Columbus, Ohio 43210-1063
ph: 614-688-8457; fax: 614-688-0366
email: ebert.55@osu.edu, gaebel.1@osu.edu, goodwin.130@osu.edu, hagopian.5@osu.edu,
johnson.2042@osu.edu, kovarik.9@osu.edu, mcclintock.22@osu.edu, mihalko.1@osu.edu,
neidig.1@osu.edu, omeara.15@osu.edu , vanlandingham.9@osu.edu, yonkura.1@osu.edu

Dr. George Billman
304 Hamilton
1645 Neil Avenue; Columbus, OH 43210
ph: 614-292-5189; email: billman.1@osu.edu

President Gee, Dr. Billman, and OSU Office of Responsible Research Practices:

The Ohio State University's 27-year old dog experiments are astonishingly irresponsible. Nowadays, human-focused models yield more relevant data and cut costs to confine, feed, dissect and discard animals.

Dr. George Billman, however, relies on old-fashioned vivisection to "prove" the established concept that exercise strengthens the cardiovascular system. He slices dogs open to implant an artery cuff, stitches the dogs back together, and makes them run on treadmills. He then constricts the cuff to induce a coronary artery occlusion. Some 768 dogs have undergone this invasive procedure. At least 256 perished during or after surgery — before any theories could be evaluated.

Please end this magnificent waste of tax dollars, time and life. I call upon OSU to replace animal mutilation with human-centric methods. For example, researchers at Brown University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and elsewhere use complex microtissues made from cultured cells. Brown's Jeffrey R. Morgan, medical science and engineering professor, led a team that layered cells 3-dimensionally to replicate live human organs.

As you know, in-vitro cell technology, computer automation and other innovations are gradually rendering animal research obsolete. I encourage OSU experimenters to keep pace with evolving global standards.

Plainly, dogs are not people. Size, location, texture and elasticity of their internal organs differ from humans. Moreover, findings published in Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science show animals display stress reactions that influence the researcher's understanding of scientific discovery. In fact, animal studies can endanger humans with misleading data.

Medical science is better served by applicable and humane non-animal systems. Please stop these futile dog experiments immediately.

Thank you,