

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Americans for Medical Progress Statement on Ongoing Misinformation Campaign Targeting the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, a collection of animal rights organizations have promoted highly misleading and even false claims about critical infectious disease research in dogs that benefits both canines and humans. As a health research advocacy organization, [Americans for Medical Progress](#) believes the public deserves to know the full story about research funded by federal tax dollars. We have created a [detailed Q&A](#) that answers many of the common questions about this research. In addition, below is a statement from our organization.

Americans for Medical Progress Statement

Efforts by a collection of animal rights organizations this week to mislead the public about critical health research in animals is nothing less than appalling. These groups have essentially accused the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of "medieval torture." However, as the [Washington Post noted](#), "The only thing being tortured here is the truth." So many critical facts were missing or purposefully misconstrued by activists, it's no wonder people are upset.

Here are just a few of the important details that were left out:

- The research took place in dogs because much of the work was focused on developing dog vaccines to combat leishmaniasis, a dangerous parasitic disease that threatens both canines and humans. One must logically study dogs in order to develop dog medications. To suggest otherwise is nonsensical.
- An additional reason why leishmaniasis research occurs in canines is because the disease frequently [uses dogs as disease hosts](#). It then jumps to humans via sand fly bites. This demonstrates again why creating a vaccine for dogs is so critically important.
- There are significant factual errors in the claims circulated by animal activists. One of the three research projects that was criticized [was never funded by the NIAID or the NIH](#). As a result, the photo of research animals under mosquito netting that appeared in nearly all the news coverage was also highly misleading.
- Regarding the research that was funded by the NIH, records show extensive steps were taken to ensure the animals involved in studies did not suffer. They were not "eaten alive" by flies as activists have falsely claimed.

This reckless and sinister effort to mislead the public was essentially a media stunt. The primary activist group behind it mischaracterized and politicized valuable research because it could be

tied to the NIAID, headed by Dr. Anthony Fauci. In short, animal research opponents recognized Dr. Fauci's highly visible and at times politicized role leading the country's COVID-19 response would guarantee them extensive news coverage for their cause. They did this despite the real possibility that their actions might disrupt research that benefits animals.

Additional resources:

Americans for Medical Progress has constructed an online Q&A to provide the news media and the public with accurate answers to some of the most common questions that have been raised.

[Q&A on Recent Claims Surrounding Federally-Funded Infectious Disease Research in Dogs](#)

Additional information about the important and necessary role of animal research in improving both human and animal health:

<https://www.amprogress.org/animal-research/faqs/>

Finally, several leading human health and veterinary medicine organizations have statements posted on their websites about the continued need for animal studies. Those links can be found below.

- [Alzheimer's Association](#)
- [American Association of Immunologists](#)
- [American Association of Neurological Surgeons](#)
- [American Brain Coalition](#)
- [American College of Rheumatology](#)
- [American College of Surgeons](#)
- [American College of Toxicology](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)
- [American Lung Association](#)
- [American Medical Association](#)
- [American Physiological Society](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association](#)
- [Association of American Medical Colleges](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Endocrine Society](#)
- [Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [Muscular Dystrophy Association](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation](#)
- [National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Society for Neuroscience](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [World Medical Association](#)

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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