

Committee on Animal Research & Ethics (CARE) 2021 Annual Report

Committee Members

Kevin Freeman, PhD, (Chair), Ruth Colwill, PhD, Pamela Hunt, PhD, Agnès Lacreux, PhD, Tania Roth, PhD, and Malini Suchak, PhD

Staff Liaison(s)

Sangy Panicker, PhD

Advocating for Responsible Research with Nonhuman Animals

Noting that the unrelenting assault on research with nonhuman animals has steadily gained strength and met with much success in recent years, CARE focused on advocating at the federal and regulatory levels. CARE engaged in activities to highlight the importance of such research not only to the health and wellbeing of humans, but also that of other animals and the environment. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown and stay at home orders nationwide, the APA Advocacy Office scheduled a virtual Hill Day when current and former members of CARE visited the offices of their congressional representatives to inform them about the importance of nonhuman animal research.

Garnering Support for Scientists Under Attack

The Committee endorsed letters to the leaders of a major university as well as to the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institute on Aging, Dr. Richard Hodes, and Director of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Norman Sharpless requesting that NIH issue and broadly disseminate a public statement to convey support for and explanation of the work of a member of CARE who was the target of sustained harassment by members of organizations fundamentally opposed to all research with nonhuman animals. The letters were drafted by *Supporting Truth about Animal Research (STAR): A Coalition of Scientific Societies*, a coalition that was created by CARE in 2013.

Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in the Care and Use of Nonhuman Animals in Research

Given that the APA Guidelines for ethical conduct in the care and use of nonhuman animals in research was set to expire in 2022, the Committee revised and updated the Guidelines and submitted it for approval by the Council of Representatives at its February 2022 meeting.

Impact on APA's Strategic Priorities

The Committee's advocacy efforts fit squarely within the APA strategic plan and contribute to numerous goals including (i) expanding the public's perception of psychology to accurately reflect the full breadth of the field, (ii) making psychological science accessible and understandable to the public and key decision makers; and (iii) increasing the impact of APA's legislative, regulatory, marketplace, and social welfare advocacy.