



April 16, 2009

To the UCLA research community,

On behalf of the Society for Neuroscience Committee on Animals in Research, I write to offer our strong and unwavering solidarity for your rally on April 22. We thank UCLA and UCLA ProTest for their extraordinary leadership in making this event happen. UCLA has been on the frontlines of this terrible trend for many years and its scientists and administrators have emerged as leading voices in our cause. Dr. Block, Dr. Levey, and Dr. Waugh have been tremendous supporters and we are deeply grateful.

SfN knows that you are here to stand up for life-saving biomedical research and we stand with you. Animal research is essential to advance science and improve the health of nearly 1 billion people worldwide who are affected by neurological disorders. You are also here to stand up for many friends and colleagues whose families are subjected to threat, harassment, and terrible illegal acts of violence. Again, we stand with you. The unacceptable violence, harassment, and distorted rhetoric are deeply intimidating to dedicated, compassionate, law-abiding scientists worldwide, many of whom are SfN members. You are rightly asking for the public, research organizations, and governments to stand up in support of life-saving research. And we stand with you. SfN is working actively to support legal, legislative, and university action to ensure the safety of all biomedical researchers. We look forward to a continuing partnership with UCLA and its researchers, along with others nationwide and worldwide, to advocate strongly for the responsible use of animals to advance science and improve health.

If medical progress is to continue, the opposition's inaccurate rhetoric cannot win the day. Standing together to advocate in local communities is an important part of national and international efforts to ensure that this does not happen. Again, we thank you. SfN cannot be there with you in person as this week we are taking our message, including the message regarding the responsible use of animals in research, to the halls of Congress. But please know, that tens of thousands of SfN members around the globe stand with you, applauding and encouraging your peaceful demonstration in support of responsible animal research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey H. Kordower', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeffrey H. Kordower, Chair
Committee on Animals in Research
Society for Neuroscience