

April 11, 2005

David J. Earnest, Ph.D.  
Earnest Lab  
Texas A&M University Health Science Center  
238 Reynolds Medical Bldg.  
College Station, TX 77843-1114

Dear Dr. Earnest:

I am writing on behalf of our more than 800,000 members and supporters to denounce your cruel and useless fetal alcohol exposure studies on the circadian rhythms of rats. Circadian rhythm research is esoteric enough, and combining it with drunken rat research is truly absurd. It boggles the mind how you can take your own research seriously. Surely the \$216,000 each year of taxpayer money could be better spent on preventing and treating alcohol related illnesses in humans.

Force-feeding alcohol to baby rats in order to damage their brains is without a doubt extremely cruel, and this cruelty is only compounded by the senselessness of your experiment. You are using neonate rats to study fetal humans; you are using alcohol consumption to study *in utero* alcohol absorption; you are studying the circadian rhythms of diurnal humans in a nocturnal rodent; you are studying humans who live in normal lighting using rats housed without a normal light-dark cycle. The list to incongruities goes on and on, making this study entirely inapplicable to humans.

The absurdity and crude design of your experiment has attracted our attention, and we will certainly be alert to any other attempts to keep your career afloat by perpetuating this unnecessary cruelty in the laboratory. I urge you not to seek an extension to the NIH grant *Development Alcohol and Circadian Clock Function*, and to avoid future pregnancy or alcohol studies on animals. If you have any questions I can be reached at 757-962-8326.

Sincerely,



Matthew Mongiello  
Research Associate

cc: Lea Marchette



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