



April 6, 2010

UCLA Pro-Test colleagues,

On behalf of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), I write in strong support of you as you speak out for animal research. Like you, SfN knows that animal research has been essential to virtually every medical advance over the past 50 years, and will be equally important to progress for millions of families worldwide who suffer from hundreds of neurological and psychiatric diseases and disorders.

SfN is keenly aware that the vital research you and thousands of other colleagues undertake each day is not only a proven pathway to better health and wellness, essential though that is. We know that scientific research is also a noble, ethical, and passionate professional pursuit that links you to the work of great scientists throughout the ages. As you drive for greater knowledge and understanding, you also care about research subjects, and work within a highly regulated environment in which universities, scientists and others adhere to rigorous measures to ensure appropriate care and attention for animal welfare. For this professional commitment and responsibility, it is unacceptable that some have been subjected to the most extreme acts of violence and threat, and it is equally troubling that professional reputations are slandered by distorted rhetoric, false scientific claims, and misrepresentation of information.

Protecting scientific research, and the researchers who conduct it, must be a national and international priority for scientists, scientific societies, government agencies and the public. The acts of violence, threats and intimidation are abhorrent in a democratic society and SfN supports prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Equally important, SfN stands with you in building public awareness about animal research, making it clear that animal research remains absolutely essential to progress on health. Animal models are today providing new insights into autism and schizophrenia, curing blindness, advancing treatments for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, and much, much more.

Today, your activism is helping to raise awareness about the life-saving research underway in the Los Angeles area, and by extension, hundreds of other communities nationwide. On behalf of 40,000 SfN members worldwide, thank you for your continuing leadership on this issue. SfN pledges its sustained commitment to strong advocacy with you and many other vital voices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Juliano', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Juliano  
Chair, SfN Committee on Animals in Research