

To: NIH Steering Committee for Consideration of Certain Human-Animal Chimera Research

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From: Seanne W. Clabough, Ph.D.

Subject: Public Comment re: NOT-OD-16-128

BY: NIH/OSP

Date: August 26, 2016

Your request for public comments on the proposed changes to these NIH guidelines came to my attention through NPR. After locating - with difficulty - and reading the full notice online, I felt compelled to express my opinion both as a former animalist who conducted research in neuroendocrinology and as a member of the human race.

The creation of human-animal chimera for the study of "human development, disease pathology, and eventually organ transplantation" utterly disregards the potential harm and suffering that humans would be inflicting on other non-human sentient beings. Sanctioning such research would be entirely homo-centric and ethically irresponsible, in other words, inhumane.

While I am not opposed to human stem cell research, I unequivocally object to the human-animal chimera proposal as scientifically unnecessary and unworthy. In light of our increased understanding of animal sentience, creating and using them in such an unnatural manner would be a step backward rather than forward for mankind. It may also serve to divert research from the pursuit of more satisfactory and acceptable methods such as organ culture and technologically enhanced artificial components.

A broader airing and longer time frame for collecting public comments on this proposal would give your committee a more realistic idea of public opinion - before the fact.

Sincerely, Seanne W. Clabough, Ph.D.

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

- Mahatma Gandhi