



National Association for
Biomedical Research



UPDATE

January 30, 2018

HSUS CEO Investigated

[According to *The Washington Post*](#), Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), an organization with a history of opposing animal research, is being investigated for sexual harassment complaints from former employees. The investigation launched Dec. 20 after HSUS received an anonymous tip about Pacelle's behavior. The organization then hired a law firm who interviewed 33 people, including Pacelle, about the allegations. The investigation reported three complaints of sexual harassment against Pacelle, and revealed that the organization had offered settlements to three other HSUS workers who claimed they were demoted or dismissed in retaliation for reporting Pacelle's alleged inappropriate behavior. The report alleges Pacelle had inappropriate relationships with HSUS staff, volunteers, and donors, and that he had been previously warned by high-ranking female staff that his behavior could hurt the organization. Some HSUS employees have defended Pacelle while others have said he created a toxic environment at the organization, making workers feel as though they needed to have a relationship with Pacelle to advance in their careers. Pacelle has denied all allegations of inappropriate behavior, telling *The Washington Post* in an interview Monday that "This is a coordinated attempt to attack me and the organization. And I absolutely deny any suggestion that I did anything untoward." To read more coverage, please see the [Chicago Tribune](#) and [USA Today](#).

FDA Commissioner Issues Statement on Nicotine Study Termination

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Scott Gottlieb [issued a statement](#) on Jan. 26 about the FDA's "strengthened commitment to humane and judicious animal research and the termination of a nicotine study." When animal welfare concerns related to a nicotine exposure study with squirrel monkeys were first reported, the FDA temporarily halted the study to conduct investigations. Gottlieb's Jan. 26 statement announced the FDA will permanently end the study and place the monkeys into a permanent sanctuary home. The investigation found the animals at the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) were well cared for, but the study "raised several concerns, including a generalized lack of oversight that could lead to similar issues for other protocols and procedures, as well as several repeated reported deficiencies that occurred under the third-party animal welfare contractor used during the study." The statement highlighted steps the FDA is taking to ensure improved welfare practices at research facilities. First, independent third-party investigations will be conducted at all FDA animal research programs. Second, the FDA has established a new Animal Welfare Council "to provide centralized oversight of all animal research activities and facilities under the agency's purview." And third, Gottlieb's statement reinforced the FDA's commitment to the 3Rs: replace, reduce, and refine, while emphasizing the important role that animals play in scientific research.

[Speaking of Research responded](#) to the statement, calling for the FDA to provide an accurate explanation of videos taken at the NCTR that are slated for release soon, writing, "Any less is a disservice to the public." The organization explained the value of the FDA's nicotine studies in terms of their potential to answer "urgent questions that remain regarding the safety and effects of nicotine delivered in other ways [beyond smoking combustible tobacco], such as by vaping or with e-cigarettes – particularly for children and adolescents."

FASEB Webinar Tomorrow on Regulatory Burden

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is hosting a webinar tomorrow, Jan. 31, to review the recent report, "[Reforming Animal Research Regulations: Workshop Recommendations to Reduce Regulatory Burden.](#)" The use of animals in research continues to be vital in improved understanding of, and the discovery of new treatments for, human and animal diseases. However, with the increased regulatory burden on animal researchers, scientific and medical advancement has become more difficult. The webinar will feature three science policy experts who will highlight key recommendations from the report that will help to reduce regulatory burden without compromising animal welfare. To register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

Golden Goose Award Nomination Deadline is Tomorrow

The [2018 Golden Goose Award](#) will honor researchers whose work led to major breakthroughs, even though their projects may appear "funny" or unusual. The purpose of the award is to highlight the benefits of federally funded scientific research to the economy and public health. Nominators are expected to explain how the projects they've selected exemplify the qualities sought in winners of the Golden Goose Award. Nominations will be accepted through tomorrow, Jan. 31. To nominate a researcher or research team, please click [here](#).

Time is Running Out for NABR's Next Webinar!

Time is running out to sign up for NABR's next webinar! If you would like to attend and have not yet reserved your spot for "[The 2017 USDA Inspection Data: Celebrating a New Milestone in Compliance?](#)", scheduled for next Tuesday Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m. (EST), please do so immediately.

NABR collects information from the USDA's Animal Care Inspection System database each year to review the inspection results for the previous fiscal year. Our efforts this year were complicated by a lack of access to the searchable database which could be used to download data into spreadsheets for what would have been a relatively straightforward analysis of the actual inspection data. The new Public Search Tool provides data efficiently, but the data is difficult to analyze. Fortunately, with our analysis, we will provide you with valuable insight into the inspection process.

[Join NABR next week](#) on Tuesday, Feb. 6 as we look at FY2017 data and compare it to analyses from previous years. Our findings will demonstrate how the research community continues to improve compliance with the letter and spirit of the regulations. This information will help you manage your own animal care and use program in the coming fiscal year. As always, [registration](#) is complimentary for dues-paying NABR members and subscribers. Nonmembers are welcome to attend, but a fee will be applied.

Register Today!

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