

# Perspectives on the Science and Ethics of Animal-Based Research

**UCLA: Young CS 50, 6pm-8:30pm, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

With the goal of opening an ongoing dialogue between individuals who are in favor of or against the use of animals in biomedical research, UCLA Bruins for Animals and Pro-Test for Science present a panel discussion on this complex topic.

The event is structured to maximize the opportunity to engage in a civil, intellectually honest discussion on issues about which people hold passionate, differing opinions. This event must demonstrate that such a discussion can effectively take place in order for future dialogue to be possible. Therefore we encourage everyone in the UCLA community who is interested to go to the Central Ticketing Office to get tickets to come and be a part of what we hope to be the beginning of an ongoing discussion about the role of animals in research.

For this event, three panelists on each side will present their views in support of or against the use of animals in scientific research. The presentations will be followed by a moderator-driven discussion based on questions submitted by the audience. The moderator for the event is David Lazarus of the Los Angeles Times.

*The panel participants who will be presenting their views in support of animal based research are:*

**Colin Blakemore, FMedSci FRS, Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Oxford.** Studied medical sciences at Cambridge and did a PhD at the University of California Berkeley. His own research has concentrated on vision and the influence of visual experience in the development of the brain. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society (the British Academy of Sciences) and the Academy of Medical Sciences. From 2003-7 he was the Chief Executive of the British Medical Research Council, where he introduced funding programs for the translation of biomedical research into new forms of treatment and prevention of disease. He will talk about the importance of openness in debate about research on animals - avoidance of exaggeration, justification of claims, and willingness to listen to the arguments of others and to define the basis of differences in opinion. He will consider some deficiencies in animal experimentation and in claims for the power of alternative approaches.

**Dario Ringach, Ph.D., Professor of Neurobiology and Psychology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles.** Obtained his B.Sc. in Computer Engineering (*Cum Laude*) and his M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, from the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. He received his Ph.D. in Neural Science from New York University, after which he moved to UCLA. He has served as a regular member of the Central Visual Processing study section at the National Eye Institute and is currently a member of the College of CSR Reviewers. His honors include a Sloan Foundation Fellowship in Theoretical Neuroscience, a Miriam and Aaron Gutwirth Award and a Goldsmith Foundation Scholarship. His work appears regularly in top scientific journals such as *Nature*, *Nature Neuroscience* and *Neuron*, and he sits in the Editorial Board of various scientific journals. Professor Ringach will discuss the critical role basic research plays in advancing

biomedical science and medicine.

**Janet D. Stemwedel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy at San José State University.** Received her B.A. (in Chemistry and Philosophy) from Wellesley College before earning a Ph.D. in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University. Currently, her research and teaching focus on the philosophy of science and ethical issues in the conduct of science. She also writes the blog “Adventures in Ethics and Science” (<http://scienceblogs.com/ethicsandscience/>). Professor Stemwedel will discuss her views about the ethical issues around animal use in scientific research.

*The three panelists who will present their views opposed to animal-based research are:*

**Niall Shanks, PhD and the Curtis D. Gridley Distinguished Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at Wichita State University.** Shanks is a staunch defender of evolutionary biology and is best known as the author of *God the Devil and Darwin*. His most recent works include *Animal Models in Light of Evolution* coauthored with Dr. Ray Greek. Past research and books include work on the hidden variables theory of non-relativistic elementary quantum mechanics. He was President (2008-9) of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is the vice-president of Americans For Medical Advancement ([www.AFMA-curedisease.org](http://www.AFMA-curedisease.org)). Professor Shanks will outline why animal models of disease and drug testing are not predictive for humans.

**Ray Greek, MD and board certified anesthesiologist with an added qualification in Pain Management.** Dr. Greek has performed research with animals and with humans. He has taught in the medical schools of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and is coauthor of five books on the use of animals in research and science. His most recent works include *FAQs About The Use Of Animals In Science: A Handbook For The Scientifically Perplexed*. He will examine the issue of using animals for basic research and will take the position that society, upon examining the cost benefit ratio, does not think the continued use of sentient animals in basic science research is justified.

**Robert C. Jones, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Center for Applied and Professional Ethics at California State University, Chico.** Received his PhD in philosophy from Stanford University in 2005. His professional research investigates the substantive cognitive properties that bear on the ethical treatment and moral considerability of both human and nonhuman animals. Prior to his current position, Professor Jones was the Post-Doctoral Fellow for the Ethics in Society Program at Wesleyan University. Professor Jones has given invited talks on his research at Stanford, Yale, Wesleyan, and the University of Auckland. In the present panel he will argue that the use of nonhuman animals as subjects in medical and scientific research as currently practiced is morally unjustifiable.

**Tickets are available through the UCLA Central Ticket Office. An active BruinCard is required.**