
From: Dr. Emily Trunnell <EmilyT@peta.org>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 2:06 PM
To: JNPEditor <jnpeditor@the-aps.org>; Billy Yates <byates@pitt.edu>
Cc REDACTED CC NAMES AND EMAILS
Subject: Journal of Neurophysiology's policy on ethics dumping

January 31, 2020

Bill Yates
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Neurophysiology

Dear Dr. Yates,

Thank you in advance for your time. I am writing as a neuroscientist and on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide regarding the troubling evasion of strict regulatory oversight in our research community, a topic recently covered by the journal *Science*[1] that has implications for the *Journal of Neurophysiology.*

Based on the information presented below, we respectfully ask that the *Journal of Neurophysiology* reject manuscripts submitted by authors who engage in forms of so-called "ethics dumping" – which per the European Commission is the practice of carrying out research, which would be ethically unacceptable in Europe, in low- or middle-income countries "where strong legal frameworks and ethics compliance mechanisms may be lacking."[2]

We submit that a form of ethics dumping occurs when an experimenter, in any country or institution that purportedly has relatively higher animal welfare standards, decides to conduct experiments on animals in another country or institution with lower or weaker animal welfare standards. The motivation for this decision may involve an effort to exploit this difference in regulatory oversight—specifically, the experimenter's desire to perform animal tests that would be disallowed in their current institution or country. In these cases of ethics dumping, the experimenter may work with collaborators in countries or at institutions with lower animal welfare standards, or the experimenter may physically relocate by leaving his/her home institution or country to work fully in a setting with lower animal welfare standards.

The latter scenario has been recently covered by scientific media with respect to Nikos Logothetis, an animal experimenter and director at the Max Planck Institute for Cybernetics in Tübingen, Germany, who has been published in the *Journal of Neurophysiology*.[3]

Logothetis, who had ended his tests on monkeys following the publication of disturbing video from his laboratory and the associated public scandal, has announced he is leaving Germany and moving his laboratory to the International Center for Primate Brain Research in Shanghai. China is known as a country with loose ethical standards for the use of animals and genetic engineering, allowing Logothetis to be "freer to pursue his work on macaques and other monkeys."[4] To speak plainly, Logothetis is sacrificing the best interests of the animals for his own intellectual curiosity by ridding himself of ethical regulatory constraints, and he shouldn't be rewarded for this objectionable race-to-the-bottom mentality by continuing to have his manuscripts printed by your journal.

The scientific publishing community must take a strong position against this kind of egregious behavior. Will the *Journal of Neurophysiology* implement a formal policy against publishing papers by authors known to have engaged in ethics dumping?

You can contact me directly at EmilyT@peta.org. I would be happy to discuss this important matter further with you. Thank you very much for your consideration, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
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CC:
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[1] Vogel G. Animal rights conflict prompts leading researcher to leave Germany for China. Science Mag. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abb0626. Published January 27, 2020. Accessed January 29, 2020.
[2] European Commission. A global code of conduct to counter ethics dumping. https://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_18_06_27_en.html?infocentre&item=Infocentre&artid=49377. Published June 27, 2018. Accessed January 29, 2020.
[3] Neves RM, van Keulen S, Yang M, Logothetis NK, Eschenko O. Locus coeruleus phasic discharge is essential for stimulus-induced gamma oscillations in the prefrontal cortex. *Journal of Neurophysiology*. 2018;119(3):904-920.
[4] Vogel

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[2] European Commission. A global code of conduct to counter ethics dumping. https://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_18_06_27_en.html?infocentre&item=Infocentre&artid=49377. Published June 27, 2018. Accessed January 29, 2020.
[3] Neves RM, van Keulen S, Yang M, Logothetis NK, Eschenko O. Locus coeruleus phasic discharge is essential for stimulus-induced gamma oscillations in the prefrontal cortex. *Journal of Neurophysiology*. 2018;119(3):904-920.
[4] Vogel

Attachments area