

PACE News

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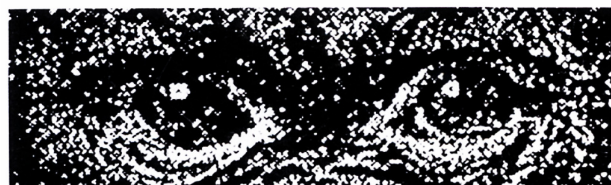
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From the Director



Reflections on the last eighteen years

Eighteen years ago, when I founded PACE, I could not have envisaged the change in perception that was to take place over the next two decades, in relation to our closest cousins the great apes. In those days, the word 'chimp' conjured up images of tea parties and rockets into space, Pepsi adverts and photos taken on southern European beaches featuring a baby chimp dressed in a t-shirt with a wide grin (which is actually a fear grimace). Over two thousand chimps were in American labs



P · A · C · E
PEOPLE AGAINST CHIMPANZEE EXPERIMENTS

at the time, and many hundreds of others were in labs around the world, being subjected to AIDS and other diseases and ageing, warfare, trauma (e.g. car crashes) and psychological studies. There were two huge chimp labs in Europe, one in Holland, the other in Austria, keeping in total over 250 chimps, half of them in isolation units. Others were being experimented on in Africa by big European and American pharmaceutical companies.



Two terrified little chimps, captured in the wild and shipped to the now obsolete SEMA lab in Maryland © PETA

And that was just the labs. Of course, chimps could be found in zoos and circuses around the world, many in conditions that would break even the hardest of hearts. >>

However, here we are in 2008 and things really have begun to change. Public perception of chimpanzees is now based on more information about their intelligence, social lives in the wild, and ability to suffer in the same way as humans. Legislation has been passed in many European countries and also in Australia and New Zealand, to make their use in labs illegal. Numerous forest protection projects in Africa and Asia work towards protecting great ape habitats from destruction and the apes from being hunted for food or trade. Animal protection organizations are lobbying for a Europe-wide change in legislation to completely ban the use of, not only great apes, but all wild-caught primates, voted for by a majority in the European Parliament. In the US lab chimp breeding has been banned, many large labs closed down and their inmates sent to rehabilitating, loving sanctuaries.

So, whom do we have to thank for this gradual shift towards a far greater appreciation for, and protection of, chimpanzees? Of course PACE and other well-known animal protection organisations have worked hard to raise awareness and to lobby legislators but I really believe that two single individuals are supremely responsible for this gradual move in public and governmental attitudes: Dr Jane Goodall and Sir David Attenborough. Sir David, a loyal supporter of PACE, has never publicly spoken out against using animals in laboratories. But his lifelong devotion to exposing the private lives of the earth's living creatures on TV, challenges the viewer as to the morality of their captivity, and the way they are

treated by humans, and has surely played its part in some of the successes that have been enjoyed by animal welfare campaigns. But, most of all, I believe that we must thank "Nature's First Lady", as she was recently titled by an American publisher, Jane Goodall. This incredible woman, now in her mid-seventies, is continuing to devote her life as a living ambassador to the whole planet with all its animals, including chimps and humans. She defied all the usual conventions of studying animal behaviour in the sixties by giving individual names to the wild chimps she was studying in Tanzania for her PhD, and using words such as happiness, sadness, fear, despair and grief, to describe the emotions she saw displayed. This was much to the disapproval of her fellow students and professors at the time. Since the eighties she has been lobbying and campaigning for their protection and respect, and has backed campaigns by groups such as PACE, catapulting them in the direction of success. Now, decision-makers and authorities targeted by a campaign with Jane behind it, feel obliged to embrace its goal, at least partly because of the sheer goodness and wonder of the woman herself. >>



Jane Goodall "Nature's First Lady"

In addition to Jane's sprinkles of magic, there are other great women who have played a big role in this revolution of the apes - Diane Fossey for wild gorillas, Birute Galdikas for orangs, Shirley McGreal for gibbons, Carole Noon who single-handedly fought and won a battle to free and re-home the US space programme chimps, as well as many others; and Gloria Grow and her crew in Canada, who founded the Fauna Foundation and freed and re-homed the lab chimps from the New York lab LEMSIP. These people and others, the majority of them women, have been hugely influential in forcing the world to look upon apes in a completely different way.

The most recent work to improve our understanding of the torture which has been inflicted on other primates in laboratories over the past four decades, is the publishing of two most interesting research studies, both of which have concluded that ex-laboratory chimps suffer from the same symptoms seen in humans that we label Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In a world which seems to require scientists to measure and record animal behaviour before being prepared to openly ponder its meaning and significance, both studies come as a blessed relief. Just as Jane Goodall's bold approach to scientific study did in the 60s, these two recent studies fly in the face of 'in-the-box' and over-cautious interpretations of animal behaviour by directly and deliberately diagnosing non-human primates with psychiatric symptoms, which, in the past, have been retained for uniquely human studies.

The conclusion of both studies is that experimental laboratory chimpanzees are afflicted with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the same way as human trauma survivors. PTSD often afflicts victims of severe neglect, cruelty, repeated violence, torture or abusive imprisonment. Soldiers who have faced life-threatening situations or have seen others dying or badly injured, survivors of serious road accidents, victims of violent physical attack, hostages, prisoners-of-war and survivors of natural disasters also are afflicted. Symptoms can last for many years but generally are not manifested for months after the traumatic events are over.

Cases of human PTSD are well documented. In addition to involving measurable behaviours, for example avoidance of certain situations or self-mutilation, emotions are felt that can not be seen and can therefore not be measured. People with PTSD feel grief-stricken, depressed, anxious, guilty and angry after a traumatic experience. Often they also experience flashbacks and nightmares where they can't help but re-live the traumatic event again and again, either in waking life or in sleep. Flashbacks can be so realistic that it is as though they are living through the experience all over again.

According to the Royal College of Psychiatrists in London, avoidance of situations that may provoke memories, and numbness of emotional response as self-protection, are also common. The reverse, too, may occur, where sufferers feel they must constantly stay 'on guard', to look out for danger, and are unable to ever relax or sleep well. >>

Human PTSD is not only experienced as psychological but often manifests as physical too. Muscle aches and pains, stomach pains, diarrhoea, irregular heartbeat, headaches and palpitations can accompany mental and emotional disturbance.

The first research study focused on two chimpanzees now living at the Canadian chimpanzee sanctuary, Fauna Foundation. The paper, entitled '*Building an Inner Sanctuary: Complex PTSD in Chimpanzees*', published in April 2008, in Volume 9(1) of the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*, provides evidence that psychological suffering crosses species lines.

The study analysed case material of two chimpanzees, Jeannie (see pics right) and Rachel. It concluded that their symptoms - hypervigilance, dissociating, violent self-attacks, insomnia, ritualistic behaviours, inability to tolerate touch and limited social skills - were identical to those of many human PTSD sufferers as well as to other chimpanzees from research.

“The paper challenges a system that likens chimpanzees to humans when attempting to justify their use to study human biological disease, but refuses to acknowledge the full extent of their emotional, behavioral and cognitive similarities”, concluded one of the authors, Dr. Theodora Capaldo.

A second, larger study of 116 ex-lab chimpanzees now living at Chimp Haven, a federally-funded American sanctuary, also concluded that chimps used for medical testing suffered similar psychiatric symptoms to those shown by



Jeannie at the New York Lab LEMSIP



Jeannie since her release to the Fauna Foundation sanctuary © Fauna Foundation

tortured humans. The research found that 95 per cent displayed at least one of the distinctive patterns of behaviour of human PTSD sufferers, even years after being released into a sanctuary.



Some of the retired chimps relaxing at Chimp Haven © Chimp Haven

In a paper presented to the International Primate Congress in Edinburgh, August 2008 (*Effects and Prevalence of Psychological Trauma on Chimpanzees in Captivity*), the main author, Dr Hope

Ferdowsian, a young American doctor who has treated torture patients, analysed reports from animal care staff on the chimps' behaviours with criteria used to diagnose human patients. Dr Ferdowsian says that as well as the signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, more than 80 per cent of the chimps had the symptoms of anxiety and at least half showed the sort of behaviour associated with depression.

"The patterns of behaviour we are seeing in these chimps are not normal and not seen in the wild," she says.



Dr Hope Ferdowsian © pcm

These included avoidance of areas of habitat, such as indoor enclosures, angry outbursts, inability to socialise, insomnia and 'floating limb' displays, interpreted in humans as indicating that the sufferer has disassociated his or her body from the real world.

It is thought that anyone who has been through a traumatic event will feel some of the symptoms of PTSD, but just for a short period. This is part of a normal process of adaptation to having experienced something terrible and is not considered PTSD unless it starts more than six weeks after, or continues for many months after, the event. I myself experienced such symptoms for a brief time after I returned from my second visit to the Dutch chimpanzee laboratory, BPRC, in 1995. At that lab I had seen chimps out of their minds in

isolation cages, and had also witnessed row upon row upon row of macaque monkeys, also in individual cages, completely insane. Some were spinning round and round with eyes flickering and mouths gaping; others were hunched in the fetal position at the back of their small barren cells, showing no signs of life except the movement that accompanies faint breathing. One day, I felt this overwhelming hatred of everyone I saw, because they were not doing anything about the monkeys and chimps at BPRC! I could not believe their ignorance or apathy. Surely they knew that in their own country and others, primates were being tortured? Why were they walking in the streets, relaxing in their homes and going about their daily lives choosing to ignore all this? Gradually I became overwhelmed by mental images of what I had seen and the emotions that accompanied them. I felt as if I was drowning in the sorrow and agony I had witnessed and would relive the worst elements of my visit over and over again, uncontrollably. I would talk to others, hoping that they would say something that might calm my mind, but they couldn't. Then I would feel like hitting out at the whole world for allowing this and I felt separated from the other humans as a result. The only way I could prevent myself from a sense of drowning in disgusting images was to exchange them for fantasies of myself chained to the fence at the front of the lab, on hunger strike. For three or so months it felt as though everyone who was not themselves chained up outside BPRC was a selfish, ignorant traitor and for

about a month I felt unable to socialise or go out of the house.

My symptoms gradually subsided, but not everyone who has witnessed a traumatic event experiences such resolution. One in three people can not ever come to terms with what has happened - it is as though the process has got stuck - and this is when PTSD really takes hold and spirals downwards into a condition labeled 'Complex PTSD'. The chimps in the above studies were diagnosed with Complex PTSD.

It is not well understood why PTSD occurs, but it is not simply exaggerated normal stressful feelings that accompany everyday upsets, disappointments and difficulties. When we are frightened, we remember things very clearly and, although it can be distressing to recall them, it can also help us to understand what happened and, eventually, act as a survival strategy assisting recovery. It is thought that perhaps flashbacks and replays force us to think through painful events so that we might be better prepared if they happen again. Because it is tiring and distressing to remember a trauma, numbness and avoidance may help keep the number of replays down to a manageable level. Being 'on guard' may mean that we can react quickly if another crisis does arise, due to heightened adrenaline levels. Only if we can somehow come to terms with past traumas can we move on from uncontrollable, unbearable psychological distress.

Certain situations have been identified as worsening the severity of PTSD. These are: if the trauma went on

for a prolonged period; if it happened at an early age (the earlier the age, the worse the trauma); if it was caused by a parent or other care giver; if the victim is isolated; and if the abusers and/or threatening situations are still present.

What strikes me here is that the experience of lab chimpanzees must fit into nearly *all* of the above categories – generally it is young chimps that are used; care-givers are usually involved in the initial capture and sedation or blood-taking; chimps remain exposed to these care-givers on a day-to-day basis and the victim is usually isolated during and after the experiment.

There are many treatments offered to human PTSD sufferers, such as weekly psychotherapy under a specialist, medication with anti-depressant or anti-anxiety drugs, or body-focused therapies such as meditation, yoga or osteopathy. They are also encouraged to revisit the scene of the event if possible, to spend time with close friends and family and talk about the trauma, to return to their daily routine and work and to take regular exercise.

What strikes me here is that chimpanzees can't do any of these!

The findings of both studies were discussed at a recent meeting of the International Primate Society held in Edinburgh in August 2008 (see report on page 11) and will be used by PACE and other welfare groups currently pressing for the Europe-wide ban on the use of great apes in medical research, and by our American colleagues in their similar campaigns.

DR SHIRLEY MCGREAL OF IPPL GETS OBE IN 2008 HONOURS



Dr Shirley McGreal OBE, with Janie in Brighton this summer © Vernon Reynolds

In June 2008 Dr Shirley McGreal, one of PACE's oldest and best friends, received the OBE from the Queen for her long and dedicated service to the welfare of non-human primates. On her visit to England for the big event, Shirley and her group of IPPL friends came to visit Janie in Brighton. They had a lovely time and Shirley was keen to practise her all-important curtsy, followed by a dignified backwards walk, in Janie's kitchen! Shirley is British-born, a native of Cheshire and, as a young woman doing her PhD, she was travelling round India and Thailand when she discovered that gibbons were being illegally smuggled to the United States for laboratory experimentation. In Bangkok she found gibbons and monkeys openly sold at markets to anyone who wanted a pet. At the airport she saw crates and crates crowded with monkeys for export. From then on, Shirley decided she was going to do something to help these helpless and tortured primates. She contacted all the

well-known primatologists, one of whom was Vernon Reynolds, now PACE treasurer, who gave her a lot of encouragement, as he too had similar concerns about the plight of chimpanzees who were being killed in their native forests so that the infants could be sold to laboratories or as pets.

In 1973 the International Primate Protection League was founded and over the many years since then, has grown to be a major force in policing the import and export of endangered species of primates. The gibbon sanctuary which Shirley set up as her headquarters in Summerville, South Carolina is also a hub of primate information. IPPL has representatives in most countries of the world, many of whom, to penetrate illegal trafficking gangs, work undercover, which can be extremely dangerous.

Shirley has had numerous successes over the years, the latest being the recent return to Cameroon (where they will live in the beautiful Limbe Sanctuary) of the 'Taiping Four' gorillas who, in 2002, were illegally smuggled from Cameroon to Taiping Zoo in Malaysia.

All of us who want to improve the lot of our primate relatives, send her our best wishes and congratulations on Shirley's great honour.

 **BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND
THE NEW YEAR FROM THE PACE TEAM**

Please leave this PACE News in an appropriate place for others to read e.g. library, surgery, waiting room, community hall etc.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Since the last PACE News there have been several progressive developments in the western world.



The EU parliament building in Brussels © Daily Mail

EUROPE: Readers will remember last year's intensive campaign by European animal groups requesting MEPs to sign Written Declaration 40/2007 which aims to ban all biomedical experimentation and toxicity testing on great apes and wild-caught monkeys throughout Europe. In September 2007 we received the good news that, finally, well over the required number of MEP signatories had been reached for it to be passed to the European Commission (assisted by the letters written by PACE members to their MEPs). New legislation is a long and tortuous path in the EU, and success is by no means certain.

We face strong opposition organised by the European Biomedical Research Association, set up specifically to fight attempts to further regulate and restrict animal experimentation. EBRA represents 50 pharmaceutical or medical associations or institutes within Europe and will have access to huge resources.

Our side has some big guns too, however. In May this year, Jane Goodall presented a petition to the EU legislators calling on them to use this opportunity to promote alternatives to animal testing. She asked, "Where is the political will, where is the funding for this kind of research, and where are the prizes? Why is animal-alternative work never recognised in the Nobel Prize for medicine, for example?"

The current position is that in May 2008 the Commission's Environment Directorate General asked the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks to call for expert advice on "the need for non-human primates in medical research" to be submitted by October 2008. I think we can predict the kind of 'experts' who will be most insistent with their 'advice'. Even then there are many more stages of the process, so we are looking at another year or two before we get the revised Directive.

However, on a more optimistic note, we do know that the Commissioner for the Environment, Stavros Dimas, is very much on our side. In fact, in reporting to the European Parliament, he said, in February 2008, that he would like to see a ban on the use of the great apes and of wild-caught monkeys, and would himself go further and ban experimentation on all wild-caught animals, regardless of species. Maybe he will be able to persuade his colleagues. Let's hope so!

UNITED STATES: Our colleagues over the Atlantic have been working hard ever since the huge demand in the 1980s for chimps for HIV research led to a breeding programme. In the mid-nineties

there were estimated to be nearly 2,000 chimps in experimental laboratories. However it was already becoming clear that chimps were not, in fact, a useful model for AIDS research, and in 1997 a moratorium (made into a permanent ban in 2007) was called on breeding laboratory chimps. By then there was a surplus of chimps requiring expensive care and housing. It was this situation which gave momentum to the campaign by a coalition of animal welfare organisations in the US, for a network of well-resourced retirement sanctuaries, the cost of which would be borne by the federal government. The Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act (the CHIMP Act) was passed in 2000 and a non-profit company called Chimp Haven obtained the contract. Since the lifetime costs of maintaining a laboratory chimp are estimated to be about half a million dollars (including the retirement care) the number of chimps in US laboratories has declined to around 1000. Chimp Haven now has 141 chimpanzee OAPs.

The latest development is The Great Ape Protection Act, which has similar goals to our aims for Europe. In April 2008 a bill was introduced to a committee of the House of Representatives in the US to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes. This is but the first stage in a long legislative process and many bills get no further than the first committee. However, we wish our American colleagues, and most of all the captive chimps who continue to suffer while the humans lobby and debate, all the luck in the world!

SPAIN: We're not quite there yet, but nearly! In June this year, the Environmental Committee of the Spanish parliament approved the resolution to ensure the right of apes to life, freedom and not to be tortured. It is thought that the way is now clear for the resolution to be passed into law, hopefully early next year. If this happens, using apes in circuses, for entertainment, in TV commercials or films will be banned, and conditions in zoos, currently home to 315 apes, will have to be substantially improved. And, of course, laboratory experimentation (not a current issue in Spain) would be entirely ruled out. In fact, the Balearic Islands (Ibiza, Majorca, Menorca) which have an autonomous parliament, have already passed the same law in 2007, becoming the **first region of the world** to recognise in law the importance of the close kinship of apes and humans.

It is amazing to think that less than 10 years ago, visitors to Spanish resorts could, for £10 or more, routinely have their photographs taken with a cute young chimp wearing a t-shirt and a nappy. Many animal activists worked hard to oppose this practice: Simon Templar, for example, used his own land in Gerona to set up Ape Rescue. But the late Jim Cronin did the most to educate the public on the cruelty involved in the tourist photography trade, and gave many ex-beach chimps a good home at Monkey World. People do hear our message when we explain the suffering of our fellow primates, and we must never give up.

REST OF WORLD: So in the world as a whole, what countries still pursue invasive experimentation on great apes?

Within Europe the **UK**, the **Netherlands**, **Austria** and the **Balearic Islands** have effectively banned such research either in law or in policy. **Sweden** has stringent restrictions.

Down under, **Australia** has a policy statement singling out the great apes and prohibiting their use in research unless it would be of benefit to apes themselves. **New Zealand** devotes a section of its Animal Welfare Act to non-human hominids - in other words it is one of the few countries to recognise that the great apes are in the same zoological family as human beings - the hominidae - and are closest to us in their emotions and suffering. All are banned from use in biomedical research or product testing unless it is in their own best interests.

That's the end of the good news. Because of the legislative restrictions introduced into so many of the developed nations, there is an increasing trend for big pharmaceutical companies with their teams of scientists to turn to the relatively unregulated Asian and African countries, with their ambitions for economic growth.

Two laboratories in Africa have chimpanzees for research. Vilab II in **Liberia** (directed by the New York Blood Center) has apparently released all its chimps onto island sanctuaries (since its more than thirty years of dedicated hepatitis research had yielded no useful vaccines or treatment). However in mid-2007 its chairman was openly asking for confiscated (i.e. wild-

caught) chimps to be sent to Vilab to test potential vaccines "on the way to retirement in the sanctuary".

The Primate Centre in **Gabon** (known as CIRMF) has scores of chimps and some gorillas and is known for its invasive research in the past. However, for whatever reason, PACE is assured by the director that, as of now, the only interventions are related to monitoring various contraceptive methods with female chimps. Chimps are still held in small laboratory groups however, and there seems to be no plans to retire them to spacious sanctuaries.

Also in Africa is the Institute of Primate Research in Nairobi, **Kenya** which advertises breeding colonies of about 270 primates for use in biomedical research. As far as PACE is aware, the primates concerned are monkeys, which makes it no less undesirable, but since chimps are our focus we will keep a watching brief on this institute.

Turning to Asia, **Japan** has a large number of chimpanzees, and some gorillas, in a number of primate research parks, which were, until recently used for medical research. At the present time, Kyoto University seems to have obtained a voluntary agreement with the Sanwa Kagaku Kenkyusho Pharma Company that the apes will not be used in invasive research. However since there is no government or legislative involvement in this moratorium, the situation may not be stable and must be monitored in the future.

In 2005, **India** started building the National Centre for Primate Research. Since the money for this enterprise came from the US Office of AIDS research, it

is worth asking whether American scientists, given the inevitable decline of available chimp subjects in the US (due to the cessation of breeding and the sheer cost of chimp maintenance now sanctuary life has to be guaranteed) are looking to a cheaper and less regulated alternative location. We are watching.

The biggest worry however is **China**. The chief executive of Bridge Pharmaceuticals was actually quoted in the Boston Globe as saying "Big pharma is looking to move to China in a big way. Scientists are cheap and animal rights activists are muffled by an authoritarian state". Other drug companies (Novartis, Pfizer, Eli Lilly and Roche) are also looking to outsource their animal research in China. There is as yet no mention of using chimpanzees, but there's nothing stopping them. Japan probably has quite a number of surplus apes for sale, if their moratorium holds, so PACE will be on the lookout for murky dealings.

LET'S HAVE A HUG!

On a lighter note, Chester Zoo has a lively colony of chimpanzees which have often been the subject of behavioural studies. The latest one, by Dr Orlaith Fraser, was rather unusual. She was interested in how chimps who have to live together, resolve conflicts. In the wild, if individuals or groups fall out, one group tends to move away, and by the time they meet up again, all resentments are forgotten. When there was a quarrel or a fight amongst the zoo chimps, perhaps over snatching a piece of food, or hogging the comfiest spot to

sit, somebody would come off worst and retreat in a sulk, feeling sorry for themselves. In many cases, Dr Fraser noticed, another chimp, usually a friend or relative of the victim, came towards them and embraced them or put an arm on their shoulder, as consolation. Although humans do act in similar ways, perhaps we don't empathise with others enough, or more likely we are inhibited about expressing our sympathy. We could learn from chimps!



In the Budongo Forest in Uganda, mother Nambi gives young son Night a consoling cuddle, after a little quarrel with his friends. ©BCFS

ETHICS OF CHIMP EXPERIMENTS DEBATED AT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

For the first time in its history, the International Primate Society, a traditional and strictly scientific organisation for all who work with primates, including biomedical researchers in experimental labs, has housed a debate on the ethics of invasive research on great apes. This took place at its annual international symposium this year, in Edinburgh, in July. PACE's representative was there, with a notepad, in the front row! >>

Of the seven contributors to the debate, only one was from 'the opposition' - a practising biomedical researcher who actually believes chimpanzees are excellent surrogate human beings to be used in experiments. There were other experimenters in the audience however, such as Dr Rick Lee of the Alamogordo Primate Facility (where the space chimps were trained). The speaker, Dr Vandenberg, who is the director of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, argued that chimpanzees were "uniquely necessary" in numerous situations where the use of monkeys or other species produce "conflicting and inconclusive results". He included the testing of several types of new drugs, and developing vaccines to combat hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. The obvious lack of progress on these fronts had not dimmed Dr Vandenberg's enthusiasm. He ended his talk by assuring his large audience that the chimps in his foundation had "beautiful" living conditions, with cradle to grave medical care (in contrast to American human beings), and would be envied by their wild cousins!



Dr John L. Vandenberg

©Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research

It was Dr Vandenberg's bad luck that the speaker immediately following him was Dr Jarrod Bailey, a British scientist well-known for his forthright arguments

against non-human primate experiments on the practical grounds of their lack of effectiveness. Dr Bailey so thoroughly demolished Dr Vandenberg's case that PACE almost felt sorry for the US bioscientist!

Dr Bailey began by reporting on the results of a really tough project he had set himself, called a 'citation analysis'. If, he said, as Dr Vandenberg had maintained, "hundreds of millions of people have enjoyed major medical benefits from research conducted with a few thousand chimpanzees", then a search of the peer-reviewed medical literature should find numerous seminal papers quoted again and again as the findings were picked up and put to good use. Dr Bailey had discovered 749 biomedical papers between 1995 and 2004, which used invasive procedures on chimpanzees in the course of researching the diseases for which Dr Vandenberg claimed chimps were the uniquely necessary subjects. Most were never cited at all! In other words no other scientists found them of value. And of the rest, only 27 seemed to indicate any clinical progress. Dr Bailey examined these and found **not a single one which did more than agree with existing human data**, or provide a further speculative hypothesis. All could have been done equally or more effectively using *in vitro* methods, human epidemiological studies, or molecular analyses.

Dr Bailey then turned to the specific case of HIV/AIDS. He reported that **85 different vaccines developed through research on chimps have been tried out in 197 clinical trials on**

humans with *not one success*. Several trials had to be stopped due to adverse effects on the human subjects. It is a similar story with hepatitis C. PACE watched Dr Vandenberg's face, but it was impassive.

The next speaker was Dr Theodora Capaldo, of the New England Anti-Vivisection Society (also referred to in 'From the Director' p 4). Psychologists have studied 300 retirement sanctuary chimps, who had been subjected to invasive laboratory experimentation in the US. They found that 80% showed psychopathological symptoms typical of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) similar to human torture victims e.g. depression, anxiety, self-injury, anorexia, seizures, trance-like states, sleeplessness, outbursts of aggression and phobias. Dr Capaldo questioned whether laboratory confinement of chimps could ever be justified, since the degree of suffering endured is so obvious.

Professor Michael Balls, an old friend and colleague of PACE from our early struggling days, spoke next. He contributed to the PACE conference in Brussels in 1993 when he headed the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) and was a founder member of the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME).

Prof Balls concentrated on the ethical issues. He said that researchers perform unpleasant, often cruel, procedures on chimpanzees which they would not do on humans. Why? Because they regard them as **very like humans**. Emotionally and intellectually they are

indeed so like humans that, logically, causing them longterm suffering is as wrong as if they were human. He said that if a line had to be drawn separating humans from other animals, then the great apes are on the human side of that line. **Apes are people too, for whom we hold great responsibility.**

The next contributor was also an old friend of ours - Gloria Grow, who runs the Fauna Foundation Sanctuary in Canada, which our director, Janie, visited a few years ago. One of the chimps there, Billy-Jo, had a harrowing history, first as an 'entertainer', then as an experimental subject at the notorious New York LEMSIP laboratory (now closed). After 30 years of suffering he arrived at Gloria's sanctuary where he was a charismatic character affecting all the humans who met him. He was also a talented painter and Janie still has two of his paintings on her wall. Sadly, Billy-Jo died in 2006 year from a heart attack at the relatively young age of 37.



The magnificent Billy-Jo © Fauna Foundation

Ms Grow presented an overview of the many sanctuaries worldwide, which now provide a semi-naturalistic and sociable environment for retired laboratory apes. A lab chimp costs approximately \$10,000 per year to look after. And since

the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act (the CHIMP Act) passed into US law in 2000, funding applications must include the predicted cost of retirement for each chimp when their use as experimental subjects is ended. Sanctuary life costs half that of a laboratory with, of course, a better life for the chimp.



Gloria Grow of the Fauna Foundation, with Jeannie chimp. ©The Fauna Foundation

The final speaker did not attend due to illness. Dr Brian Hare heads the hominoid research group at the Max Planck Institute and does non-invasive behavioural research in chimpanzee sanctuaries. He is an advocate of the value of sanctuary research, arguing that a lot can be done which would not be possible in the wild. PACE would have listened keenly to this talk, as the scientific literature shows sanctuaries often allow procedures on their chimps, such as the taking of blood or tissue samples, which some would call invasive, and we wonder exactly what controls are in place to prevent further exploitation, should experimental chimp subjects become difficult to obtain.

All in all, the symposium was very rewarding for PACE and renewed our determination to get a European ban and then, hopefully, a world-wide ban.

WHEN BLAKEMORE HAD TIME TO THINK.....

As PACE readers will know, Prof Colin Blakemore has always stood in absolute opposition to everything we believe in and work towards. As a professor at Oxford University and Director of the Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience in the 1980s and 1990s, his experiments on the development of vision were notorious for the cruelty to the kittens whose eyes were sewn shut to mimic blindness. He is the most well-known and highly-placed active advocate for using animals in medical experiments, including chimpanzees.



Prof Colin Blakemore © New Statesman

However, since he retired from his job as head of the Medical Research Council, Blakemore has been giving interviews in which he has been saying some unexpected things. PACE even wondered if he was developing some slight moral awareness, but it is more likely, we think, that he just wants some good PR for a change. Time will tell.

In the Times Higher Education earlier this year, Prof Blakemore was reported as stating that the arguments between anti-vivisectionists and pro-animal experimenters were too polarised and that experimenters should realise that **the benefits of animal testing were uncertain** and there might be **more**

scope to develop alternatives. This is heady stuff indeed. He even went on to admit that "supporters of animal research are inclined very frequently to **"dismiss moral objection"**. PACE was gobsmacked (although he predictably said a lot of nasty things about animal rights people as well).

Then in the New Statesman, in February 2008, although he was back to making his usual scathing comments about pro-animal activists, he said something interesting with which PACE can certainly agree i.e. **that humans should volunteer for medical trials of the type carried out on animals** (he was referring to the testing of drugs in clinical trials, which is very expensive, and would be cheaper and quicker if the researcher could cut out the legally required animal testing stage).

PACE thinks that if such trials were allowed by law, and widely advertised, and people (either healthy or with some specified condition under research) were invited to volunteer, then thousands would come forward. This is certainly something worth campaigning for and we'd have Prof. Blakemore on our side!

By the way, don't worry about Blakemore having to draw unemployment benefit any day soon. He now seems to have more jobs than he could be expected to do properly, and no doubt he is paid salaries for all of them. Nice if you can get it. He is now back at Oxford University as Professor of Neuroscience, and also has a similar post at Warwick University. He took on the chairmanship of the Research Defence Society (the rabidly pro-vivisection

organisation which acts as an information, publicity and lobbying resource for animal experimenters). And now they've made him chair of the advisory committee to the Food Standards Agency. Somehow we do not expect him to be promoting vegetarianism in his new position!

Good News From The **co-operative**

As many of you will already know, the Co-operative Bank has long had an ethical policy whereby it will never knowingly invest in companies involved in, for example, selling landmines or arms to oppressive regimes; or animal testing of cosmetics or household products; the fur trade; extracting fossil fuels unsustainably; or trading in unsustainably grown timber or illegally harvested fish; and many others.

The Co-operative Society also runs campaigns each year and gives a percentage of its profits to particular causes such as mental health with money going to such charities as MIND and SANE; child poverty; safe drinking water for developing countries and others for which, in each case, their members voted.

This year, the Co-op's ethical review has a new proposal, number 18, which says: *We will not finance any organisation involved in the exploitation of great apes, e.g. in experimentation or general commercial use.* All members (anyone with a Co-op shop card, credit card or Smile card, a mortgage, loan or bank account with the Co-op, or who is a member of a Co-operative Society) will get a voting form in the post or can vote online at www.co-operativeethicalvote.co.uk. Please tick 'strongly agree' to question 18.

By the way, the Co-op Bank seems to be riding the current storm with a very stable ship. Could this be related to its ethical investments and the fact that it has no shareholders, only members?

MUDDLED THINKING BY THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

In early June, our unflagging secretary Nancy, listened to a Radio 4 documentary in a series called *Frontiers of Science*. Its message was that 10% of the medicines and pills which are prescribed for children, including antibiotics and vaccines, are unlicensed i.e. have not actually been tested on children with regard to safety.

Nancy reported that emphasis was laid on the fact that children are not mini-adults and that their bodies behave and react differently from those of adults - indeed there could be marked variations in body reactions between children themselves at various ages/stages of their development with regard to their brains/ bodies. Administering downscaled adult doses can have adverse effects e.g. heart failure in a child as no gauges apply.

Nancy immediately saw the parallels between adults being used for testing drugs for children, and primates being used for testing drugs for humans. So we looked up one of the links given in the programme to the Medical Research Council's *'Ethics Guide on Medical Research involving Children'*.

This document states: "Often it is not sufficient, scientific or ethical to carry out research with adults and apply the findings to children. This is because some childhood diseases have no close analogies in adults". The comparison here with the work on HIV or Parkinson's Disease, which have no direct analogies in primates is obvious. Tipu Aziz (the pro-vivisection Oxford

neurosurgeon) can get funding to poison monkey brains in order to mimic the effects of Parkinson's before he then tries to cure the fake symptoms. But he has no problem with the ethics.

The guide continues: "The physiology of children is different from that of adults and the pharmacokinetics of drugs vary with the age of the child." **Therefore, how much greater might we expect the differences of response to be between the macaque monkeys on whom TGN1412 was tested and the 6 young human adults whose lives were ruined when they were administered only 1/500th of the dosage used on the monkeys.**



Effects of TGN1412 on one volunteer © BBC News

It seems to PACE that the sensible ethical position taken with regard to the differences between children and adults, appears never to have been considered relevant when comparing the far greater differences (of species and of evolutionary adaptation) between non-human primates and humans.

We can only hope, now Prof Blakemore has left his position, that the MRC will rethink the logic of its ethical guidance to toxicity testing.