

Becky Hales

From: Tyrer, Bob [bob.tyrer@sunday-times.co.uk]

Sent: 21 May 2010 16:23

To: Becky Hales

Dear Rebecca,

Here are copies of the correspondence, commenting on the fairness and balance of the article. I think they demonstrate that Richard Girling approached the subject with an open mind. Indeed, Barbara Davies of Understanding Animal Research seems to feel that he was too accommodating to critics of animal research.

Best wishes,

Bob

From: [Fiona Fox](#)

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 4:31 PM

To: girling@wordfarm.vianw.co.uk

Subject: Congratulations on an excellent article

Hi Richard,

Not sure if you remember me but we chatted very early on in the process of you revisiting the whole issue of animal research for the Sunday Times magazine and we were able to open a few doors for you to the right people. Well I just wanted to write to say what an excellent piece you wrote. Of course some of it made for uncomfortable reading for us devotees of the need for animal research but I think the piece was all the more compelling because of your own qualms.

I was at a meeting of a bunch of science press officers recently who all agreed with me that this was excellent and we were keen to pass that on to you and to the Editor of the Sunday Times magazine – who clearly made a brave decision to give such a large amount of space to tackling this controversial issue. Can you send me the name of the Editor concerned so we can write a note.

Also we were wondering about one thing. I have recently produced a report for Government on science in the Media in which a section calls on the scientific community to move to a more open communications strategy on animal research. I got the impression from your article that you may have been surprised to find that things had not become much more open since your last piece and would appreciate a quick chat about that if you have a minute.

Cheers
Richard
Fiona

Fiona Fox

Director

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From: [Barbara Davies](#)

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 6:32 PM

To: [Richard Girling](#)

Subject: Animal research feature

Hi Richard

Now the dust has settled, I thought I should write to tell you that the feedback on your article on animal research on 10 January has been very positive. It has been described as a tough but fair read. The intro quoting animal rights activists and then describing the living conditions as you saw them, and your struggle with some dilemmas eg primate research, meant that you came over as open-minded but ultimately on the side of animal research and 'the deal'.

I particularly liked your conclusion about openness – it shows that, although we may think there has been significant progress, we still have a lot of work to do on this.

It would be very helpful if you could answer a few questions. These are not meant to be critical; I'm just seeking information.

1. You say many labs 'declined to receive' you. Can you put some numbers on this? Also I recall that we offered you access to one facility that you turned down!
2. Have you had any unwanted attention from antivivisectionists?
3. BUAV tends to go through official complaints procedures – has this happened in this case?
4. You say the film shot at Wickham showed "rabbits being incompletely injected, immobilised in stocks for hours". Did it, or was it cleverly edited? Similarly you state as fact that BUAV exposed "cruelty to mice and rats in a badly run cosmetic-surgery trial". I don't think it's as simple as that – did BUAV show there was cruelty, did they prove the botox was for 'cosmetic surgery'?
5. Surgical implantation of macaques with head-posts you say is 'typical' – do you have evidence for this? I thought that it was relatively rare, used only in certain areas of neurological research
6. The NC3Rs is not the biggest funder of non-animal research – where did this information come from? The pharmaceutical industry spends hundreds of millions every year on the Three Rs, and most biomedical research – about 90% – is non-animal anyway.

Once again, thank you for a very thoughtful article that told it like it is.

Regards,

Barbara

21/05/2010

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From: [Beveridge Catherine](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 3:44 PM
To: [Richard Girling](#)
Subject: Follow up from Sunday Times article

Hello Richard

I think I can still just about say "Happy New Year" while we're in January. I just wanted to say thank you for all your hard work on the Sunday Times article. Animal research is an area which comes up again and again for and I'm sure the team at the Centre were very grateful that you handled the issue so responsibly. If there's anything we can help with in future, please let us know.

Kind regards

Cathy

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