

BROKEN PROMISES in CANADA

**icord =
MORE ANIMALS AND PEOPLE SUFFER!**

One of the “themes” of the researchers in the new **icord** building at Vancouver General Hospital is to create new animal models of spinal cord injuries. The past and present animal models failed. This will mean more suffering to animals that are intentionally afflicted with spinal cord injuries. The often misleading results from animal models could actually harm people. The use of such animal models is a waste of scarce health care funds.

For a look into a vivisection SCR laboratory here is a link to Lifeforce’s Broken Promises video www.lifeforcefoundation.org >http://www.lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=19

icord

and the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre (BSCC) is funded/supported by the **Rick Hansen Institute, Stewart and Marilyn Blusson,**  **Scotiabank** and other business/government/public monies.

Recent Experiments

During recent experiments at **icord** intentionally spinal cord injured rats and mice were “fasted. Some improvements were found in fasted rats but not fasted mice. Researchers also questioned if “fasting” is practical since patients would probably not agree to not eating.

Is this still Rick Hansen's Wet Lab Dream for a Cure?



No transparency about Rick Hansen Foundation and ICORD animal experiments

Lifeforce was there 25 years ago to tell Rick Hansen about vivisection that it has documented. He has supported animal experiments including cats. Repeated attempts to get his present position have gone unanswered. Lifeforce letter:

Dear Mr. Rick Hansen

I hope that the next 25 years will see the end of inhumane, scientifically fallacious spinal cord experiments on animals. It is time to stop the barbaric experiments that have been repeated for over 50 years. New technologies, clinical/epidemiological studies permit humane studies with humans. That is how breakthroughs are discovered!

As you know, money raised for SCR includes experiments on animals in which they are intentionally paralyzed and subjected to abusive tests. Numerous doctors agree that vivisection retards scientific progress because these animal models are unlike naturally occurring human diseases or injuries. Furthermore, methodologies tested, such as drug therapies, react differently between and within various species of animals. Data obtained from animal models cannot be reliably extrapolated to solve human problems.

I have been studying the history of spinal cord research for over 25 years. I can say that spending millions of dollars and wasting hundreds of thousands of animal lives has not cured spinal cord injuries. The discovery that has helped people has come from the studies of human injuries. The mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, dogs, Canada Geese (rounded up in Stanley Park), non-human primates and others suffered needlessly. Researchers at Vancouver's ICORD and others have recognized the failure of "animal models" but they will repeat the history of failure if they keep their plans to try to find better "animal models".

Let's look at one SCR example. For over 50 years cats have been intentionally crippled and forced to attempt to walk on treadmills. This is done to see if exercise improves motor function recovery. Well the benefits of such human rehabilitation were and are known. One researcher alone can use approximately \$1 million and one hundred kittens every year.

Lifeforce will continue to help people and animals by promoting humane, reliable non-animal spinal cord research. The time has come to stop the animal cruelty and to stop wasting health care monies on this vivisection.

I have always supported a lot of your work. However, it was very disappointing when, 25 years ago, I gave you extensive data about the failure of "animal models" but you went on to fund animal experiments. Will you immediately implement a policy to stop any new funding of animal experiments by the Rick Hansen Institute and any of your affiliated programs? Will you make a commitment to advise other organizations to phase out the use of "animal models" in SCR? Will you support Cruelty Free Research? In so doing, the future will bring greater hope for cures for spinal cord injuries.

See experiments that have continued for over 25 years> Please watch "Broken Promises"

http://lifeforcefoundation.org/ecotv_play.php?id=19

I look forward to hearing your response.

Ask Rick Hansen if he continues to support and fund experiments on animals. Email him at: info@rickhansen.com