

Email to *Nature* from Peter Lewis, Associate Vice-President, Research, University of Toronto, March 8 2012

I think my comments in response to the media enquiries have been generalized from a specific situation - the pre-planned euthanasia of 2 macaques at the end of a 7 year study on mechanisms for sensory and motor functions in the mouth and face, to a general pronouncement on the use of non-human primates in research at the University of Toronto.

The 2 macaques were the last non human primates at UofT on campus. At the moment there are no studies planned here at UofT that will use non-human primates. We are not stating that in the future we will never use non human primates. We are simply stating that we have no plans at the moment .

With regard to the use of smaller animals, we were informed by our scientists for the study mentioned above using the macaques, that they could now with current technology do the same type of experiment instead on rats and mice. Again this has been generalized by the media to all studies with non human primates could be done on rodents.

As you know there are many types of research that require the use of non human primates. Our researchers are not engaged in any of them at the moment. If a proposed research project at UofT, required the use of non human primates and was scientifically and ethically justified, then we would endeavor to support it.

I hope these statements address the questions you have posed.

All the best.

Peter Lewis