

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000700

OUTCOME: Outcome 1 - Population Health

Topic: Non-human primates in research

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon

Question:

- a) Since the beginning of 2014, how many primates have been requested to be used in experiments?
- b) And has the NHMRC funded any research using non-human primates?
- c) If the NHMRC has funded research, please provide details for each of those projects.
- d) Which species, and how many, have been used or requested in each of the projects?
- e) What sort of procedures did/is the research subject those animals to?
- f) What was or is the planned fate of those animals at the conclusion of the experiments?

Answer:

- a) Since 2014, NHMRC collects information relating to types and numbers of animals proposed from successful applications only. Among such grants, 261 primates were proposed to be used.
- b) Yes. NHMRC has funded 14 new grants which proposed research involving the use of non-human primates, since 2014. All research involving animals must be approved by an institutional Animal Ethics Committee before it can commence.

Answers to c), d), e) and f) are included at Table 1.

Table 1: Details of funded grants including type, number and fate of non-human primates and the procedures proposed.

Simplified Title	Type	Number requested	Procedure(s), including fate if known	Budget Total
New allosteric nicotinic modulators targeting attention deficit hyperactivity disorders	Baboon	5	PET imaging studies	\$609,676
Developing a safe vaccine against group A streptococci	Macaque*	15	Vaccine testing	\$768,531
Neural basis of the functions of primary visual cortex	Macaque	15	Surgery, cortical recording under anesthesia	\$484,048
Transplantation of pig islets to treat diabetes	Baboon	10	Diabetes induced, islet transplantation, euthanasia	\$1,521,571
Probing the potential for the brain to self-repair following an ischemic stroke	Marmoset	40	Surgery, induced ischemia, euthanasia	\$963,002
Neural Mechanisms of Optimal Sensory Integration	Marmoset/ Macaque	10	Surgery, recording of cortex, behavioral tasks	\$520,692
Understanding the role of the claustrum in brain function	Marmoset	18	Surgery, recording of cortex, behavioral tasks, euthanasia	\$555,565
A novel treatment for ischemic stroke: preclinical assessment in the nonhuman primate	Marmoset	65	Surgery, induced ischemia, euthanasia	\$752,459
Visuomotor integration in the medial parietal cortical areas	Macaque	4	Surgery, recording of cortex, euthanasia	\$656,540
Neural circuits for active vision in the primate cerebral cortex	Marmoset	6	Surgery, behavioral tasks	\$624,514
Eye movements and the neural representation of visual space	Macaque	8	Surgery, recording of cortex, behavioral tasks	\$453,117
GPER pharmacotherapy in acute stroke	Marmoset	20	Surgery, induced ischemia, behavioral tasks, euthanasia	\$862,914
New treatment to block retinal blood vessel growth avoiding eye surgery	Macaque	27	Eye injection/ damage, euthanasia	\$878,897

Pre-clinical evaluation of a novel HIV-1 vaccine strategy	Macaque	18	Vaccine testing	\$521,339
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*The macaques used for this project will be tested by researchers in the United States.

Note: The number of animals requested includes experimental and control animals.

