

RESOLVED that—to improve our bottom line, social responsibility profile, and quality of our research—shareholders encourage The Board of Directors to establish a schedule for phasing out the use of chimpanzees in invasive research. This schedule should be posted on the Company’s website.

Supporting Statement:

Abbott Laboratories recently used chimpanzees in an invasive study involving Hepatitis C virus (HCV), as evidenced in a 2007 paper published in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. Please consider the following reasons chimpanzee research and testing is of concern to Abbott shareholders:

Research and testing on chimpanzees is expensive and wasteful. First, the cost of using and maintaining chimpanzees in laboratories is high, with these costs being passed on to Abbott Laboratories through user fees.

Second, chimpanzee research is not predictive of a successful human drug and is a waste of Abbott’s limited resources. With hepatitis, chimpanzees have been found to differ from humans in terms of immunity and disease progression. A review of HCV studies over the past decade, published in the *Journal of Medical Primatology*, shows chimpanzees (unlike humans) typically clear HCV infection on their own and do not develop chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis or liver cancer. Similar problems occurred with chimpanzee use for HIV research. They have since been deemed a poor model by the scientific community.

In contrast, cellular studies of human immune responses to HCV infection and existing in vitro methods—such as a recently developed human hepatocyte culture described in the July 2008 issue of *PLOS One*—offer ample opportunities for providing effective solutions for human hepatitis.

Research and testing on chimpanzees causes severe animal suffering. Chimpanzees are intelligent and social animals capable of emotions like pleasure, anxiety, pain, empathy and grief. Often, chimpanzees in invasive experiments are held in complete isolation from other chimpanzees and subjected to painful and distressing procedures for months, or years, at a time. These procedures may lead to physical injury and enduring psychological trauma. Published studies have shown chimpanzees formerly used in research suffer from symptoms similar to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in humans.

The majority of Americans oppose the use of chimpanzees in invasive experiments. A 2001 Zogby poll found that 54 percent of Americans believe it is unacceptable for chimpanzees to “undergo research which causes them to suffer for human benefit.”

The United States is the only developed country in the world that uses chimpanzees in invasive research and testing. In fact, some countries such as The United Kingdom, Japan, Holland, Spain, Austria, Australia and New Zealand have enacted prohibitions or severe restrictions on chimpanzee research, without adverse effects on medical research. Even the number of chimpanzees in U.S. laboratories has declined by more than 40% over the last decade, signaling an end to this practice.

Because research and testing on chimpanzees is costly, ineffective and a matter of significant social importance, we urge shareholders to vote FOR this proposal, which would simply show support for the development of a timetable for phasing out our company’s use of chimpanzees in research.