

tiveness and safety is poorly supported by scientific evidence, whether produced by alternative or orthodox medicine, becomes a product of mass consumption.

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Laboratory animals deserve better legal protection

To the editor:

Given that she is head of the National Association for Biomedical Research, Frankie Trull's professed concern for animal welfare in her interview¹ is disingenuous considering her organization's history of campaigning to ensure that rats, mice and birds be excluded from Animal Welfare Act (AWA) protections. The idea that these animals are not worthy of AWA coverage is unscientific and unethical. Rats and mice, in particular, continue to be exposed to such torments as inescapable

electric shocks and force-feedings. Are these really what anyone would consider "the most humane conditions"?

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Animal experiments "represent outdated science"

To the editor:

While griping about security measures at laboratories, Frankie Trull neglected to mention that 95% of all animals used for experimentation—mice and rats—are specifically excluded from the Animal Welfare Act, the only federal law covering animals in US laboratories. Mice and rats have no protection at all under federal law. Meanwhile, the laboratory committees that by law are supposed to oversee all studies involving animals and prevent redundant experiments are failing dismally at their jobs.

In my personal opinion, Trull's role as apologist for anything and

everything experimenters do to animals is an anachronism given the burgeoning field of non-animal research. Forward-thinking scientists are ready to admit that experiments on animals often represent outdated science and that such experiments are always unethical.

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