keeping with Harvard guidelines.

Harvard Medical School is now in the process of changing its conflict-of-interest rules such that they apply not only in cases of "direct authorship," but also when a faculty member is part of a "working group," says Harvard spokesman Don Gibbons.

Another group member, John Trojanowski, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, had to answer to a similar complaint, but told *Nature Medicine* that his university has taken no further action. Trojanowski insists he has no links to Athena and no plans to license the patents he holds on potential Alzheimer tests.

Strangely, no complaint was filed at Duke University against group member Allen Roses, an adjunct professor there since becoming vice president for genetics at Glaxo Wellcome in 1996, who was also highlighted in the newspaper article. He and his Duke research team hold the patent on the APOE test, from which most of the royalties go to a scholarship fund. At the request of the working group, a full disclosure of their interests will now be published in NoA.

The meticulously orchestrated anonymous campaign leads many to believe that the originator is not acting altruistically, but must have commercial interest in discrediting those involved in the working group report. Moreover, many find it hypocritical that the individual remains anonymous when demanding disclosure of interests from all other parties.

A lawyer representing the anonymous client alleged that the NIA improperly convened an official consensus panel knowing that some of the members had conflicts-of-interest. NIA responds that it did not convene the panel, but simply participated in it. However, spokeswoman Jane Shure says that NIA is now taking steps to make sure its role is clearer in the future.

The NoA, which like many biomedical research journals, has hitherto lacked a disclosure policy, will now request authors to disclose their commercial interests. Philip Campbell, Editor of *Nature*, says that *Nature's* disclosure policy is currently under review. The present policy does not require disclosure.

In other news...

Conflict-of-interest in another area of Alzheimer research was the subject of a heated web-debate last month between two of the biggest names in the field. A

letter posted at <http://www.alzforum.org/members/research/news/a2m/roses.html> by Allen Roses incorrectly charges that Rudi Tanzi, Harvard Medical School, acted as a referee on a paper submitted to *Nature Genetics* as part of a series of correspondence pieces on the association of AD with an alpha-2-macroglobulin polymorphism (*Nature Gen.* 22, 16; 1999), and that Tanzi did not reveal his association with the com-

pany, GenoPlex. Tanzi replies, "[the] allegations...are entirely without foundation," and requests that Roses "get [his] facts straight first, before [attempting] to tarnish the reputations of others. [His] behavior, especially on a public forum, is appalling." *Nature Genetics* does not request authors to disclose commercial interests.

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Local people threaten chimp sanctuary

The paper by Beatrice Hahn and colleagues (*Nature* 397, 436; 1999) announcing that AIDS came from chimps has caused problems for Gloria Grow, founder of Canada's first chimp sanctuary. Grow is now embroiled in a battle with locals of Carignan, Quebec, who believe they may become infected by Grow's chimps, which were once used for biomedical research, including HIV vaccine trials.

Hahn reported that a species of chimpanzees known as *Pan troglodytes* is the primary reservoir for HIV-1, and has been the source of at least three independent introductions of SIVcpz into the human population.

Since then, chimp hysteria has spread throughout the town of Carignan, and last month locals petitioned to have the sanctuary shut down. "The people have fears that HIV can be spread through the water, since there is a stream in back of the sanctuary, and they are concerned that birds and squirrels can spread HIV," says Grow, who adds that teachers have been practicing 'chimp drills' instead of fire drills, in the event that a chimp escapes and enters a school.

Grow's sanctuary, The Fauna Foundation, houses 15 chimps, eight of which were infected with HIV in experiments at New York University's Laboratory of Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates. Although Grow obtained permits to import the chimps, and the sanctuary is supported by the Canadian federal and Quebec provincial governments, Carignan townsfolk have been harassing sanctuary employees and blocking building permits that would allow the sanctuary to expand or even be made safer.

Jonathan Allan, virologist at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR)—which currently has more than 250 chimps in HIV studies—says "Typically, researchers study an

HIV-1 strain that doesn't replicate well in chimps...There is a much greater risk of becoming infected by a human than by a chimp." Allan points out that HIV is not transmissible from primates to rodents or deer.

But public outrage at local housing of HIV-infected chimps may become more common, as primate centers will eventually need to find retirement homes for the estimated 1400 chimpanzees that are now being used for biomedical research in the US. 250 chimps have recently been 'retired' and cannot find homes in the handful of facilities in North America capable of housing them.

As human's closest relative, chimps are considered ideal research tool and are not killed once their project is completed. HIV infection is not fatal to chimps, and they can live for 40-50 years. Tom Butler, chairman of Laboratory Animal Medicine at SFBR, says that within a few years of injection, chimps eliminate the HIV virus from the body. "An HIV-1 infected chimp doesn't even get sick," says Butler, "Therefore, the chimp is not useful for studying disease pathology—only vaccine development."

There are currently no laws on dealing with chimps once they are 'retired,' and once infected with HIV, they are maintained in level-two containment for the rest of their lives, which can cost around \$3500-\$4000 a year.

The NIH was urged to establish a Chimp management program by the National Academy of Sciences in 1997 (*Nature*, 388, 218; 1997), but has failed to do so thus far.

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Courtesy of Gloria Grow