

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

## **Australia's barbaric brain injury experiments are not clever**

Tomorrow, (24 April) marks World Day for Animals in Laboratories, and Humane Research Australia, is calling for an end to Australia's involvement in barbaric traumatic brain injury experiments carried out on animals at universities across the country.

**Humane Research Australia CEO, Helen Marston:** *"Each year Australian researchers are provided huge amounts of money in grants to study traumatic brain injury (TBI) but the methods used are barbaric, unscientific and in no way helpful to humans who actually suffer TBI".*

*"We have uncovered information revealing that researchers at the Howard Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health (University of Melbourne), Monash University and the University of Western Australia, are dropping heavy weights from a height onto the brains of animals causing a traumatic injury. The experiments are barbaric, far from scientific and do not replicate the human condition of TBI".*

Further details of the procedures can be found at [www.humaneresearch.org.au/case-studies/australia-s-barbaric-traumatic-brain-injury-research-on-animals](http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/case-studies/australia-s-barbaric-traumatic-brain-injury-research-on-animals)

The University has recently acknowledged that animals are often not an ideal model for scientific research but HRA holds the view that no animal model truly represents the human condition and therefore results are unreliable.

Further, Dr Ashwin Kumaria, neurosurgeon at Queen's Medical Centre, UK says<sup>1</sup>, that *"experimental in vivo models offer the potential to study TBI in the laboratory, however, treatments that were neuroprotective in animals have, thus far, largely failed to translate in human clinical studies"*.

*"Bad science must no longer be funded or conducted in this day and age and we call for an end to all animal experiments"* Ms Marston concluded.

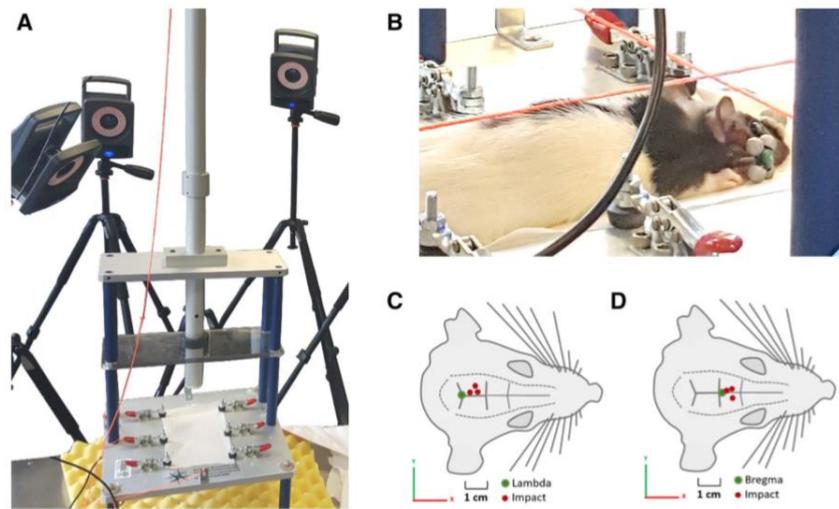
### **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL:**

Video footage of the weight drop device in operation

<https://www.jove.com/video/51820/a-novel-model-of-mild-traumatic-brain-injury-for-juvenile-rats>

Photograph of the device and rat under the device at the University of Western Australia

**Fig. 1** a Images showing the mTBI apparatus and three infra-red cameras and **b** animal positioning under guide tube in weight-drop device. **c** Schematic illustrating lambda ground truth and trial impact sites ( $N = 3$ ) and **d** bregma ground truth and trial impact sites ( $N = 3$ )



1. *In vitro Models as a Platform to Investigate Traumatic Brain Injury* Ashwin Kumaria ATLA 2017, Vol 45, 201-211

For more information, visit [www.humanereseach.org.au](http://www.humanereseach.org.au) or call 1800 486 263.

Ends