

October 26, 2005

Glenn R. Schmitt, Acting Director
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Mr. Schmitt:

I am writing with additional revelations about the improprieties concerning UW-Madison Professor John Webster's Taser experiment on animals, which is funded by a half-million dollar grant from the Department of Justice. These revelations cry out for scrutiny by the National Institute of Justice and should lead the agency to withdraw its funding.

Taser International is now the subject of a full-blown investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission on charges of stock manipulation—even as the death toll from Taser use rises and there are calls for more safety studies. The nature of past and ongoing Taser experiments is being called into question as more information is uncovered—as you know, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has an active campaign against the UW-Madison taxpayer-funded experiment on pigs. As discoveries of malfeasance hit the headlines, PETA has found that manipulations of the truth have pervaded Taser experiments whether they take place in private garages or in Webster's laboratories at UW-Madison (see www.stopanimaltests.com/f-taser).

When we revealed that Robert Stratbucker was paid as both Webster's consultant and as Taser International's medical director (he deliberately omitted this fact from the *curriculum vitae* that he submitted for Webster's experiment protocol), he was ousted from the study, which had been touted as "independent." We have offered similar information to UW-Madison's Chancellor Wiley about another of Webster's consultants, Wayne McDaniel, who remains involved in the experiment despite his irrefutable Taser affiliation; most recently, we told Chancellor Wiley about Dorin Panescu, whose name also appears on Webster's consultant roster. In addition to collaborating on numerous publications with Webster and Stratbucker, Panescu was also paid by Taser as an expert witness for the defense in a wrongful death suit (see the attached).

Speaking of Taser-paid "expert" witnesses, there appears to be another gap between the facts and information that was submitted on a *curriculum vitae*. A letter by Robert H. Goldberg endorsing Taser technology and concluding that it is "both safe and effective" appeared on Taser International's Web site—until Goldberg's credentials were called into question. "Dr. G," Goldberg's Web page says, "serves as an expert in legal medicine and pathology for the United States Department of Justice. ... He has been instrumental in cases which received the U.S. Department



PETA

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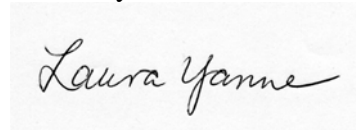
of Justice Directors Award.” (See <http://www.forensicmd.com>.) Would it be possible for you to verify this assertion?

Finally, an electrical calculation in Robert Harrison’s letter (attached), which also appeared as a product endorsement on Taser’s Web site, is called “bogus” by Taser’s own vice president, Max Nerheim, in a sworn deposition (excerpt attached).

Taser International is associated with quite a lineup of suspicious characters. One wonders why the Department of Justice was so keen to give a grant for an experiment that merely serves to validate the safety claims of the manufacturer.

We would appreciate your comments about this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Yanne". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Laura R. Yanne
Research & Investigations Department