



PETA

**PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

501 FRONT ST.
NORFOLK, VA 23510
757-622-PETA
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org
Info@peta.org

July 25, 2007

Dr. Robert E. Campbell
President
College of Physicians of Philadelphia
19 S. 22nd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3097

1 page via fax: 215-575-3499

Dear Dr. Campbell:

I am writing on behalf of PETA, the world's largest animal rights organization, with more than 1.6 million members and supporters, to ask that the College of Physicians of Philadelphia reconsider its plans to honor Thomas Langfitt with a memorial tribute. Contrary to the noble mission of the college "to advance the science of medicine and to thereby lessen human misery," Langfitt's legacy is dominated by merciless cruelty to animals in experiments that did not "lessen human misery" at all and in fact were not only roundly criticized as an abomination but had their funding cut by NIH.

Langfitt spent 30 years inflicting head, chest, and abdominal injuries on monkeys, dogs, pigs, rabbits, and ferrets. Langfitt was responsible for an experiment in which 23 dogs were fed ethyl alcohol, had their chests and pericardiums cut open, and were hit directly on their exposed hearts with an air-pressured impactor. In a typical impact test on pigs, these sensitive, intelligent animals were hung in a cloth sling to await a crushing blow to the stomach or chest from a pneumatically driven metal device.

Langfitt was an associate of the infamous Thomas Gennarelli, working with him on baboon head injuries at the University of Pennsylvania. More than 70 hours of graphic video footage taken inside the head-injury laboratory by the experimenters themselves documented the callous attitude of the experimenters and unprofessional, unscientific, and needlessly cruel practices. When videotapes of Langfitt's experiments were made public, the secretary of health and human services cut off all funding to the laboratory and the experiments were stopped. The scandal over abusive treatment of animals at the head-injury laboratory effectively forced Langfitt out.

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia must not gloss over Langfitt's 30-year legacy of cruelty to animals by honoring him, as now planned. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS