

ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY USE OF ANIMALS FOR TRAINING

RESOLVED, to maintain and promote the best and most humane training standards, the Board is requested to adopt available non-animal methods for medical device training procedures and incorporate them consistently throughout all the Company's operations.

Supporting Statement

The prevailing ethic governing the use of animals by the medical, scientific, and corporate community holds that animal use should be eliminated in favor of non-animal methods whenever and wherever possible. To use animals when effective alternatives are readily available is both out of step with this professional consensus and a disservice to our shareholders, who rightly expect our Company to maintain high standards consistent with state-of-the-art science.

Johnson & Johnson's Ethicon Institute for Surgical Education in India and Ethicon Endo-Surgery in the U.S. use animals for training medical professionals in the use of laparoscopic surgical equipment, even though our Company uses simulators for this purpose at other facilities. It is inexplicable that our Company would choose to use cruel, invasive, and demonstrably inferior training methods in one place and superior alternatives in another.

Animals in laboratories experience pain, fear, and stress. They spend their lives in unnatural settings, caged and deprived of companionship; are subjected to painful procedures; and are ultimately killed. This is the reality which must be acknowledged any time the use of animals is being considered.

Fortunately, for scientific, economic, and ethical reasons, the medical and scientific communities have developed—and now rely on—numerous non-animal training methods which are proven superior to the use of animals. The use of live animals for laparoscopic training is illegal in Great Britain and the Netherlands, is not endorsed by the American College of Surgeons, and has been eliminated in all top American medical colleges.

Modern medical training employs virtual reality simulation, synthetic models, and human cadavers. These training tools replicate human anatomy, provide objective feedback for student assessment, and allow trainees to repeat procedures until vital skills have been mastered.¹ Our Company uses, and has even developed, some of these methods. It should use them consistently throughout the corporation and its subsidiaries.

Our Company also uses live animals to train sales representatives. In one instance in 2009 at Ethicon Endo-Surgery, a marketing intern who was not even a regular employee was allowed to perform surgical procedures on a live pig in a sales training program. These animals are used as a matter of convenience rather than necessity. Competitors in the medical device industry have ceased this practice.

We urge shareholders to vote in favor of this socially and ethically responsible proposal.

¹ Reznick RK *et al.* 2006. Teaching surgical skills—change is in the wind. *New Engl J Med*; 355(25):2664-9.