

EUNICE SHRIVER'S LEGACY OF TORTURE

In 1962, when Eunice Shriver founded, with the help of her brother, President Kennedy, the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development at the NIH, and began funding laboratory experiments, she insured that the grisly work of the notorious vivisector, Harry Harlow, would continue up until the present day. Eunice fervently believed in “basic research,” which also led to her funding the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center in 1969.

In 2015, PETA obtained documents, hundreds of photographs, and more than 500 hours of never-before-seen, high-definition videos taken inside the Eunice Shriver/NIH Infant Primate facility in Poolesville, Maryland. There, the experiments made famous by Harry Harlow, at the University of Wisconsin, continued unabated in the Eunice Shriver Poolesville lab, perpetrated by his protégé Stephen Suomi, after the death of Harlow in 1981. The videos were shown on national news stations to horrified reactions by the public and members of Congress, who demanded an investigation. After intense, unrelenting pressure was leveled at the NIH by PETA and hundreds of thousands of activists, the NIH decided to shut down the lab.

The same kinds of experiments, and worse, are being perpetrated by another protégé of Harlow, Gene Sackett, who experiments on baby monkeys and their mothers at the Eunice Shriver Infant Primate Lab at the University of Washington. Both labs found their perfect cover and excuse for their existence because of Eunice Shriver's name, and her passion for helping mentally disadvantaged children. The vivisectors can pretend that what they are doing is necessary to “help children” when in reality it is being done strictly for monetary gain. Millions of dollars in grants are given to the University of Washington for the experiments that are inflicted on babies and their mothers.

Below are excerpts from an article by PETA

Harry Harlow's psychological experiments on monkeys in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s were infamous for their cruelty. Harlow tore newborns away from their mothers, gave some infants “surrogate mothers” made of wire and wood, and kept other traumatized babies in isolation in tiny metal boxes, sometimes for up to a year. Realizing that such horrific conditions resulted in long-term, debilitating psychological trauma of the infants, Harlow began expanding his project. He, and his then-student Stephen Suomi, created the “pit of despair,” a dark metal box designed to isolate the monkeys from everything in the outside world. Within days, the monkeys kept inside the pit were driven insane, incessantly rocking and clutching at themselves, tearing and biting their own skin and ripping out their hair. When finally removed from isolation, they were too traumatized to interact with other monkeys, and some were so shocked and depressed that they starved themselves to death. To see what would happen when tormented monkeys became mothers themselves, Suomi and Harlow created what they called a “rape rack” in order to restrain and impregnate female monkeys, then would later watch and photograph the mentally ill mothers physically abusing and killing their own babies.

Half of the monkeys born each year in the Eunice Shriver NIH lab were separated from their mothers within hours of birth and never returned. Some infants were given a cloth-covered water bottle as a “surrogate” mother. As in Harlow and Suomi’s earlier experiments, these motherless infants were more likely to suffer from severe anxiety, aggression, depression, hair loss and other physical and mental illnesses, as well as engaging in self-destructive behavior such as biting themselves and pulling out their own hair. The monkeys underwent years of terrifying and often painful experiments to exacerbate their symptoms of mental illness and test the severity of their psychological trauma.

A small portion of examples from the videos:

- Infants are caged with their mothers, who are chemically sedated, have their nipples taped over, and are placed in a car seat. The terrified babies scream and cry, climbing onto and frantically shaking their unresponsive mothers. In at least one case, experimenters can be heard laughing while a mother tries to remain awake to comfort her distraught child. In some trials, the experimenters even release an electronic snake into the cage with the baby monkeys, who innately fear the reptiles.
- Newborn infants are restrained inside tiny mesh cages and placed in “startle chambers.” The experimenters then deliberately scare the babies with loud noises, causing them to cry out and try futilely to hide or escape.
- Infants are placed alone in a small cage and are repeatedly and intentionally frightened by the threatening presence of a human. The monkeys cry out, cower, and clutch the back of the cage in fear.

As the babies grew older, they were shuttled between NIH laboratories and subjected to years of additional experiments. Some of the distressed monkeys had devices screwed into their skulls so experimenters could inject their brains with a variety of drugs already being used to treat human children and adults suffering from mental illness, including Prozac.

Other young monkeys were injected with large doses of ethanol, deliberately turning them into alcoholics, which increased their anxiety, aggression, depression, and social withdrawal. These experiments continued to be funded by the Eunice Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development with our tax dollars for decades, even though the vivisectors admitted to each other, in their protocols, that the experiments were useless.

Suomi has long acknowledged the irrelevance of his torturous experiments. As far back as 1977, he wrote the following: *“Whether actual data obtained from nonhuman primates have added measurably to our understanding of human development is another matter...Such cases are relatively rare. Most monkey data that readily generalize to humans have not uncovered new facts about human behavior: rather, they have only verified principles that have already been formulated from previous human data.”*

After four more decades of these experiments, nothing has changed. In a recent paper, Suomi and his colleagues drew this conclusion:

“Many findings from behavioral and biochemical studies in monkeys and other animals are not replicated in humans. Accordingly, this study cannot directly address the safety and efficacy of [anti-depressant drugs] in children and adolescents with psychiatric disorder...This animal model of maternal separation has never been validated as a measure of drug efficacy in humans,...The only way to know definitively whether [anti-depressant drugs work] in humans would be to study our species.”

Meanwhile, researchers throughout the country are suffering from a shortage of funds as they conduct human-based research that can demonstrably benefit human health and well-being.

The results of Eunice Shriver's insistence that laboratory experiments were the answer to helping developmentally challenged children are decades of unparalleled torture of animals, the underfunding of clinical research that actually *can* benefit the children she cared so deeply about, and more children than ever being born with physical and mental challenges. For her family to continue to deny her responsibility for the continuing fraud and torture being perpetrated in her laboratories is disingenuous. The Shrivens should use their money, power, and influence with the media, members of Congress, and Francis Collins at the NIH to adamantly and publically call for the closure of the UW Eunice Shriver lab.

The Shrivens should demand that money from their mother's institute be taken away from vivisection and given to real scientists who will ascertain the reasons why babies are born physically and mentally challenged: toxins in our air, food, water, drugs, vaccines, pesticides, and a host of other products manufactured by the petrochemical/pharmaceutical industry. It's time to put human health above the greed of Big Pharma, their billion-dollar vivisection industry, and the University of Washington. The Shrivens could go a long way towards making that happen, but, to them, protecting their mother's golden legacy is more important than stopping the suffering of human and animal babies and their mothers.

To quote Eunice's own words when she founded the labs..."the years of research and experiments, faithful study and sustained advance are upon us." Except for the words, "sustained advance" truer words were never spoken. She created an experimental paradigm that has metastasized into a monster of immense proportions she could never have foreseen and will need the courage of her family to destroy.