



***Working to benefit all people
affected by genetic disorders***

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news release

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY'S ACTIONS ARE A GRAVE BLOW TO THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS.

The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) responds to the Cambridge University's announcement that their planned primate research centre will not go ahead.

Alastair Kent, Director of GIG said "Cambridge University's capitulation to threats from self styled "animal rights" activists is a grave blow to the many thousands of patients living with brain disorders who stood to benefit from the research that would have been undertaken at the primate research centre. Much needed progress towards the development of treatments for serious and life threatening conditions will now be delayed or even abandoned.

"This action by one of the UK's most prestigious academic institutions will give comfort to animal rights activists, threaten the country's research base and put everyone working on important animal based bio medical research at risk by sending the message that violence can and will win if those in a position to resist it are to supine to do so.

"Cambridge should consider reversing this decision if it is to hope to repair the damage to its reputation, and to regain the trust of patient support groups, many of whom have spent millions of pounds funding medical research there over the years".

Ends

For more information please contact

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Notes to Editors

- The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) is a national alliance of organisations with a membership of over 120 charities that support children, families and individuals affected by genetic disorders.
- Our primary goal is to promote awareness and understanding of genetic disorders so that high quality services for people affected by genetic conditions are developed and made available to all who need them.
- Individually, many genetic conditions are rare and as such it is difficult to raise their profile and the needs of those affected by them. GIG provides a common platform from which effective programmes to raise awareness, inform the media and influence government, industry and the NHS can be launched
- As an organisation focusing on issues of policy and practice GIG keeps an active watch on developments in the UK and Europe that will influence the effective transfer of knowledge and understanding into products and services for families that are supported by our member groups.
- In a potentially controversial field like genetics GIG provides a strong voice advocating the benefits of scientific progress in understanding the contribution being made now and that will be made in the years to come for improving health and combating many currently incurable diseases.

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A Registered Charity (Number 803424)