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Update for paragraphs 8.9-8.9.1

CONTROVERSIAL ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORY OPENED AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

A controversial animal research laboratory that became the focus of a campaign of terror by animal rights activists was officially opened at Oxford University in November 2008. The £18 million Biomedical Sciences building was due to be fully operational by mid-2009.

The centre, which will house thousands of animals (including mice, ferrets, monkeys, and other species), was designed to bring the university's disparate animal research projects under one roof. Work on the building began in 2003 but was abandoned less than a year later when contractors quit following intimidation from anti-vivisectionists. Construction on the building was then suspended for 16 months while the university obtained an injunction against animal rights protesters to protect staff and builders and establish an exclusion zone around the facility.

In response to the opening, a representative of the BUAV (British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection) stated: 'I want to live in a world where no one wants or believes it's necessary to test on animals. It is therefore depressing that in a collective failure of imagination our leading institutions are choosing to repeat the failed patterns of the past, rather than investing in the future. Humanity will pay a high price until our public money goes into modern, humane, reliable, non-animal research to deliver cures for diseases.' But Mark Walport, the director of the Wellcome Trust, claimed that animal research plays a 'vital role' in developing treatments and understanding diseases that affect thousands of people around the world. 'Where there is no possible alternative, it will continue to be necessary to use animals in research and facilities such as those at the University of Oxford will ensure that animal welfare standards will be amongst the highest in the world," he said.

Website reference:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/nov/11/animal-research-oxford-university>