



LIVING PROOF: FACES OF RESEARCH

Discussion Guide for General Public Audiences

Instructions:

The purpose of the *Living Proof: Faces of Research* DVD is to provide insights into the benefits of medical research and the important role laboratory animals play in the scientific process. This DVD introduces viewers to four people age 55 and older who have benefited from medical advances made possible by years of animal-based research. Viewers will also meet four scientists who are helping make these medical miracles happen.

The purpose of this Discussion Guide is to stimulate dialogue about medical research and the role animals play in the research process. This Discussion Guide consists of a set of questions to be used with general public audiences after the DVD has been viewed.

Together, the DVD and Discussion Guide should make it relatively easy for you to educate community members, teachers, students and other groups about the purpose, process and benefits of biomedical research involving animals.

Discussion Questions:

1. You've just seen four older Americans in this DVD, all age 55 or older, living vibrant, healthy lives. All four are survivors – people who've been treated for devastating medical problems such as organ failure, cancer, heart disease and degenerative eye diseases. After watching this DVD, what thoughts do you have about medical research and its impact on our health and well-being? What impact is medical research having on the health and well-being of Americans age 55 and older?
2. Back in 1900, the average life expectancy in America was approximately 47 years. Today, it is approximately 77.6 years. What advances in medical care might account for this change?
3. Before watching this DVD, had you thought much about the research that has gone into modern medical advances?
4. How did watching this DVD affect how you think about the medical research process – the number of people involved, the length of time it takes and the care and use of animals involved in research?
5. Do you know anyone who has needed an organ transplant, had cancer, a heart attack or deteriorating vision? How has medical research affected these peoples' lives?
6. After watching this video and thinking about advances in medical care in recent decades, what would you want younger generations to know about the quality of the health care we have today versus when you were a child or when your parents were children?
7. For those of you interested in reading personal testimonies about how medical research has benefited Americans, particularly those age 55 or older, I'd like to recommend a Web site. Please check out www.living-proof.us.

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