

Johns Hopkins Surgery Clerkship Timeline

June 2006: The Physicians Committee writes to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine surgery clerkship director Stephen Yang, M.D., for the first time to urge him to replace pigs with human-relevant training methods.

July 2006: The Physicians Committee writes to the Johns Hopkins Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee to explain that the availability of alternatives means the committee should not allow the use of animals for medical student training.

July 2006: The Physicians Committee files a complaint with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) arguing that Johns Hopkins is violating the federal Animal Welfare Act.

April 2007: The Physicians Committee writes to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine dean Edward Miller, M.D., urging him to end the use of animals for medical student surgery training.

July 2007: The Physicians Committee writes to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine surgery chair Julie Freischlag, M.D., urging her to replace pigs with human-relevant training methods.

March 2008: The Physicians Committee holds a physician demonstration outside the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. [insert hyperlink to a PCRMR webpage on the demonstration]

May 2008: The Physicians Committee writes to associate dean for curriculum Patricia Thomas, M.D., who replies that this issue is on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee.

Feb. 2010: The Physicians Committee writes to the Johns Hopkins Medicine Simulation Center director and confirms that the center can replace animal use in the surgery clerkship.

Feb. 2011: The Physicians Committee files an animal cruelty complaint with the Baltimore City State's Attorney.

June 2012: The Physicians Committee is informed that the number of pigs for the surgery clerkship has been sharply reduced.

May 2013: The Physicians Committee writes to the new vice dean for education Roy Ziegelstein, M.D. John Pippin, M.D., of the Physicians Committee and Dr. Ziegelstein exchange messages over the ensuing months.

Aug. 2013: The USDA inspects Johns Hopkins and finds violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Sept. 2013: The Physicians Committee informs Johns Hopkins that the only other medical school in Maryland that was using animals—the Department of Defense’s Uniformed Services University—has [ended the use of pigs in its surgery clerkship](#).

April 2014: The Physicians Committee is informed that Dr. Ziegelstein has elected to continue the surgery clerkship pig lab.

Aug. 2014: The Physicians Committee holds a large [doctor-led demonstration](#) at Johns Hopkins.

April 2015: The Physicians Committee sends Department of Defense memorandum announcing an end to animal use in several areas of medical training to Dr. Ziegelstein and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine dean Paul Rothman, M.D.

June 2015: The Physicians Committee writes to new surgery clerkship and curriculum director Anne Lidor, M.D., urging her to replace the use of pigs for medical student training.

August 2015: The Physicians Committee writes to all members of the Johns Hopkins Alumni Council and the Board of Trustees.

October 2015: The Physicians Committee places [advertisements on buses and in subway stations](#) in Baltimore that bring attention to Johns Hopkins’s use of animals.

December 2015: Boxes of 80,000 petitions are sent to Johns Hopkins administrators.

January 2016: Maryland Delegate Shane Robinson introduces a [bill](#) that would outlaw the use of animals for medical student training in the state.

February 2016: The Physicians Committee writes to new surgery department chair Robert Higgins, M.D., urging him to replace the use of pigs for medical student training.

February 2016: Del. Robinson’s bill receives a [hearing in the House of Delegates Health & Government Operations Committee](#). A panel of physicians—including a Physician Committee representative and former Maryland Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene Martin Wasserman, M.D.—testify in support of the bill. Johns Hopkins receives criticism from numerous delegates during the hearing.

May 2016: Johns Hopkins announces it is ending the use of animals for medical student training. [\[hyperlink\]](#)

