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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEADLINES VERSUS FACTS IN NEW BPA STUDY

Washington, D.C. (October 20, 2015) -- The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA) released the following statement today in response to a [press release](#) regarding a University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) study on rats, spatial learning, and bisphenol A (BPA) that was conducted as part of a larger National Center for Toxicology Research (NCTR)/U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) project. The following statement is attributed to NAMPA's Chairman, Dr. John M. Rost:

“A recent press release out of the University of Missouri-Columbia announced some disturbing information regarding the safety of BPA. The question any reader must ask is whether the information portrayed in the press release is actually supported by the findings of the study it was designed to publicize.

“In the press release dated October 20, 2015, the headline reads, “*Female rats struggle to find their way in BPA study from MU and the NCTR/FDA.*” Presumably, this headline was designed to achieve several effects. The first is to highlight the important work that is going on at the University. The second, and more important, effect is to show how this work is discovering an important safety concern about BPA that has yet to be revealed by researchers at other institutions. But there is a problem. The [study's conclusions](#) actually support the opposite of what the press release describes.

“What the press release fails to mention is that the rats featured in this study were fed BPA at rates equivalent to five, 50, and 5,000 times the amount that humans are actually exposed to according to U.S. FDA and other regulatory bodies around the world. The rats were then tasked with escaping from a box with several fake escape holes and a true escape hole. The data showed that only animals exposed to 5,000 times the actual levels of human BPA exposure demonstrate any measurable differences in escape times. The animals that were exposed to the five and 50 times human levels did not show any difference.

“In the light of a simple evaluation of the actual study data, the question must be asked: what did the University and the researchers stand to gain by misrepresenting the meaning of the study? Maybe a better headline for the press release could have been, “*At levels 50 times greater than human exposure, BPA has no effect on navigation and memory.*”

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The North American Metal Packaging Alliance is an organization whose objectives are to support risk-based regulations in North America; influence regulation in other geographies, provide customers with needed information regarding well-founded technologies, and advocate risk-based decision-making in technology decisions.



About NAMPA

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc., and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. For further information, visit www.metal-pack.org.