

1 power to help him to succeed, but I think that this might  
2 be a case where that was taken advantage of.

3 DR. MILLS: I have no more questions.

4 DR. GRIMM: I have no questions.

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: No.

6 All right. So should we go off the record?

7 DR. NELSON: Yeah. We're done.

8 (A brief recess was taken at 2:09 p.m. to 2:12  
9 p.m.)

10 EXAMINATION OF ANTHONY KROPINSKI

11 DR. NELSON: This is Anthony Kropinski.

12 I'm Dorothy Nelson. This is the Investigation  
13 Committee.

14 DR. GRIMM: Michele Grimm from Biomedical  
15 Engineering.

16 DR. MILLS: And I'm Scott Mills from Department  
17 of Physical Medicine Rehab at School of Medicine.

18 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Philip Cunningham, Biological  
19 Sciences.

20 DR. LAPOINTE: Margot LaPointe, Henry Ford  
21 Hospital, Research.

22 DR. NELSON: Have a seat.

23 MR. KROPINSKI: Thank you.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And, thank you. All right.

25 So let's go ahead and just jump right in and --



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- let me ask you --

3 COURT REPORTER: Can you hold on one second?

4 (Discussion held off the record.)

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So tell us when you  
6 joined Dr. Kriepke's lab.

7 DR. MILLS: Phil -- just to give you a bit of  
8 background, the reason that you're here is Dr. Kreipke  
9 had provided us your name and had asked us to interview  
10 you, and that's what prompted us to issue you the  
11 invitation to come to come and speak with us.

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Okay. Great.

13 DR. MILLS: Okay. I'm sorry, Phil.

14 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Sure, no problem.

15 And so tell us when you joined his lab.

16 MR. KROPINSKI: It was March of 2010, so last  
17 year.

18 DR. CUNNINGHAM: March of 2010.

19 MR. KROPINSKI: And I was actually right down  
20 the hall in pathology and that's kind of how we met --  
21 kind of crossed paths.

22 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Well, that's what I was going  
23 to ask you, so you met him -- when you say you were in  
24 pathology, what were you doing there?

25 MR. KROPINSKI: I was doing prostate cancer



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1 research --

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

3 MR. KROPINSKI: -- culture and stuff, also --

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: What was your role there?

5 MR. KROPINSKI: My role there was research  
6 assistant in that lab.

7 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

8 MR. KROPINSKI: And -- I mean, at the time  
9 Dr. Cheney (ph) who was -- who I was employed with, he  
10 just hired me and I was his only research assistant, and  
11 I was doing all kind of the lab manager stuff as well --

12 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Sure.

13 MR. KROPINSKI: -- and then he hired an  
14 post-doc and -- you know, the situation there started to  
15 kind of deteriorate in terms of -- you know, I didn't  
16 really like -- he was a very large micromanager and kind  
17 of wouldn't let me think for myself a bit. And I know I  
18 was a research assistant, but, you know, you want to be  
19 able to think a little bit. And so that's when I started  
20 thinking about, well, you know, neuroscience is really  
21 what I want to do, and then I passed Dr. Kreipke in the  
22 hall a few times and he's like, "Well, I do, you know,  
23 trauma stuff." I'm like, that sounds pretty interesting,  
24 and so we kind of made the transition through February  
25 and March of last year so ...



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And you were given more  
2 independence than in Dr. Kreipke's lab?

3 MR. KROPINSKI: Definitely. I mean, he's not a  
4 micromanager. He trusts his employee to do, you know,  
5 their job. He doesn't really --

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Sure.

7 MR. KROPINSKI: -- you know, we check in for  
8 Monday meetings, we tell him what's going on, and we're  
9 pretty much there to carry out the experiments and report  
10 the data.

11 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

12 MR. KROPINSKI: So my role there was -- is now  
13 was lab manager for Dr. Kreipke.

14 DR. CUNNINGHAM: I see.

15 MR. KROPINSKI: That was one of the reasons  
16 when we talked, he wanted to bring me on board for that  
17 purpose, --

18 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And that was --

19 MR. KROPINSKI: -- to organize the laboratory.

20 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So -- and when you were  
21 converted to lab manager, when did that happen?

22 MR. KROPINSKI: That was right at when I  
23 started the position.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Oh, it was.

25 MR. KROPINSKI: Correct. So, yeah, he hired me



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1 as an lab manager for his laboratory.

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: That's great. So let me -- we  
3 had -- I guess you and some other people were scheduled  
4 to come in earlier --

5 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- and then within a period of  
7 about, I don't know, fifteen, twenty minutes or so, we  
8 got three e-mails or so saying that you guys wanted to  
9 cancel and do written responses. Can you tell us a  
10 little bit of how that happened? How did that -- how did  
11 you guys suddenly all at once change your minds on that?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: No, from -- I can only speak to  
13 my own situation, that I had -- I had soccer tournaments  
14 this weekend, and I was -- my sister was flying out to  
15 Denver so -- you know, she's a travel agent, so I had to  
16 help her out with her -- my nephews and nieces as always  
17 as I've been doing for several years. So that's kind of  
18 what came up. I kind of overlooked that on my schedule,  
19 miscommunication with my wife, and what was going on with  
20 the weekend and so that's kind of what was -- and I  
21 thought that when I included the written statement, I  
22 just thought it would be heads up to you guys to -- if it  
23 was urgent to get something back. Because I had  
24 testified with the VA previous to this in July.

25 DR. MILLS: Was that through written responses?



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, some of it was, yes. Yeah,  
2 initially, I went in and testified, and then I asked if,  
3 you know, he had a couple of additional questions, and I  
4 did a written response to that.

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Has anyone else spoken with  
6 you about this interview?

7 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, no. I mean, it was made  
8 aware that we would be going in at some point to testify  
9 through -- you know, Dr. Kreipke had mentioned it, but  
10 other than that, I mean, it's the only resource I really  
11 had.

12 DR. GRIMM: When did Dr. Kreipke mention that  
13 to you?

14 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, just in the last week or  
15 so. I mean, at some point when the allegations came  
16 through. You have to -- mind you, I was in the middle of  
17 all of it. I mean, I knew from Reynold's side what he  
18 was up to and I kind of took a passive role to all that  
19 just observing what was happening in his relationship  
20 with Kreipke, so I knew of what was happening in February  
21 with the allegations being submitted and prior to that  
22 his relationship with Kreipke.

23 Some things are fuzzy on my end, but, I mean, I  
24 knew all along at some point I'd be called in since  
25 Reynolds submitted that in February. I mean, I just



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1           figured that much. And as of probably the last two weeks  
2           or so, Kreipke said, "You're probably going to get called  
3           in eventually, you know, here soon."

4                   DR. CUNNINGHAM: But it's your testimony that  
5           nobody spoke with you about your testimony here today --

6                   MR. KROPINSKI: No. No.

7                   DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- or about the fact that you  
8           guys canceled all within this short period of time?

9                   MR. KROPINSKI: Oh, no.

10                  DR. CUNNINGHAM: That was just a coincidence?

11                  MR. KROPINSKI: I -- yeah, to my knowledge,  
12           yeah.

13                  DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

14                  DR. MILLS: Did Dr. Kreipke specifically tell  
15           you that he was submitting your name as a witness?

16                  MR. KROPINSKI: Um, I mean, I figured he would.  
17           I thought Reynolds would as well because Reynolds trusted  
18           me as well, so I would figured either or would submit my  
19           name for this, yeah.

20                  DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So Dr. Kreipke told us  
21           that you would be able to share some information with us.

22                  MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

23                  DR. CUNNINGHAM: This is -- here's a list of  
24           the information he said you'd be able to provide us.

25                  MR. KROPINSKI: Okay.



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Now, why don't you take a look  
2 at that. Have you seen that before?

3 MR. KROPINSKI: I haven't seen this before, no.

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So we'd like you to  
5 address each of those issues.

6 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

7 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And if you would, just for the  
8 record, read the first one --

9 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

10 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- and then tell us what your  
11 response is. Okay?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, for the first fact from  
13 Christian Reynolds mouth that he made multiple threats  
14 including graphic threats --

15 DR. MILLS: But you need to respond.

16 MR. KROPINSKI: I'll speak to that. Those  
17 threats came -- it's hard for me obviously to nail down  
18 the exact time line, but sometime after Korea -- when  
19 they went to a conference in Korea. I wasn't -- I did  
20 not attend this conference. It was Dr. Rafols, I think,  
21 Steve Schafer from the lab -- he was a research assistant  
22 lab when I was a first year med student -- or second year  
23 med student at Wayne -- Dr. Kreipke, Reynolds, I think  
24 maybe Atkinson went. I'm not sure. But after that point  
25 their relationship seemed to deteriorate.



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1                   And Reynolds and I worked obviously on a daily  
2 basis together. I mean, he would kind of confide in me  
3 and tell me, you know, how he felt about Kriepke. And  
4 there was nothing really -- no issues at first when I  
5 first came to the lab in March, you know. I didn't  
6 really notice any problems with their relationship. I  
7 know that they were good friends. Michael Fronczak,  
8 Christian Reynolds, and Dr. Kriepke used to hang out a  
9 lot out work. They would go to baseball games and things  
10 like that. So, you know, I'm married, and I kind of had  
11 my own life and I was happy to stay out of that.

12                   And then -- I'm trying to think, Korea came and  
13 you -- I heard some things about Christian Reynolds, you  
14 know, kind of -- not badgering, but I'm trying to think  
15 of the right word, but causing some problems with saying  
16 things to other collaborators in the field that, you  
17 know, Kriepke had relationships with, that, you know,  
18 Kriepke was -- a PI or this and that. But as the months  
19 went on and specifically in Winter Brain in January, the  
20 conference I attended in Colorado, Reynolds and I had  
21 very -- tons of conversations about his -- his feelings  
22 of Kriepke. And I -- you know, I told him he's got to  
23 relax. And he said things on several occasions. I  
24 remember at least three occasions he said that he would  
25 put Kriepke's hands in liquid nitrogen and smash them and



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1 put him up in front of a piano, which Kriepke is a  
2 pianist, you know, and that's the reason for that, I  
3 suppose. But his -- he started to have this kind of  
4 unruly hatred for Kriepke as the months went on.

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Let me ask, when he -- this  
6 business with the hands --

7 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah.

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- now, is it your perception  
9 that he was doing that -- I mean, you know, when I was in  
10 grad school sometimes we would sit around and be po'd at  
11 our --

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

13 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- advisor or --

14 MR. KROPINSKI: And that's kind of how I took  
15 it at first.

16 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- and we would say things  
17 like that --

18 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

19 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- like I'd like to --

20 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- whatever.

22 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I mean, I agree you  
23 think -- at first pass you're like, okay, you know, he's  
24 not real happy with how the relationship's going with the  
25 mentor --



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But when you first heard that,  
2 that's what you thought?

3 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I kind of -- right, and I  
4 kind of -- I mean, I thought it was strange, but there  
5 was a lot of other things. I mean, looking in retrospect  
6 back to, you know, he -- after Reynolds went to Haiti,  
7 for example, he kind of had a shift in personality. He  
8 saw how impoverished that nation was and then he was  
9 working with orphanages there, and he came back to a lab  
10 that has, you know, a good amount of money. And he sees  
11 his PI -- interprets his PI as wasting money on  
12 experiments that he thought weren't working and he just  
13 had a change in personality.

14 And, I mean, the reason why I think those  
15 threats are more valid now is that he would -- he had a  
16 building hatred for Kriepke. I mean, it was -- he would  
17 obsess about it. Like in Colorado on the flight home I'd  
18 be like, "I really don't want to hear about this anymore.  
19 I don't -- "I don't need to hear you talking about him  
20 all the time." I mean, it was --

21 DR. MILLS: Regarding the threats that you had  
22 heard over time, --

23 MR. KROPINSKI: Yes.

24 DR. MILLS: -- did it ever raise to the level  
25 that you had concerns that they were sufficiently



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1           serious, that you spoke to any authorities regarding your  
2           concerns about the threats?

3                   MR. KROPINSKI: No, not at that time. I mean,  
4           I -- I felt -- I mean, after he submitted the  
5           allegations, I obviously thought to myself, wow, this  
6           is -- you know, this is crazy, it's strange, and I  
7           didn't -- I mean, and now seeing how much Reynolds seems  
8           to be pushing on this and continuing with the V.A. and  
9           everything, it just seemed -- that's what kind of alarms  
10          me, you know what I mean, and that -- and from my  
11          perspective putting all the pieces together, I feel like  
12          if Reynolds had knowledge of me testifying against him  
13          now that I don't -- I don't feel like he'd be violent,  
14          but I don't know. Do you know what I mean?

15                   DR. MILLS: Uh-huh.

16                   MR. KROPINSKI: You can't be sure of people  
17          sometimes. So I wasn't that close with him, I mean, as a  
18          working relationship --

19                   DR. MILLS: But just to clarify, although you  
20          heard -- well, I don't want to put words in your mouth.

21                   The threats that you heard Christian Reynolds  
22          make against Christian Kreipke, you did not report --

23                   MR. KROPINSKI: No, I didn't.

24                   DR. MILLS: -- concerns --

25                   MR. KROPINSKI: Right.



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1 DR. MILLS: -- to any Wayne State officials or  
2 legal authority?

3 MR. KROPINSKI: No. And in retrospect, I  
4 regret that. And in my defense, I feel like -- and I --  
5 you know, when I told Chris this, because I told Kriepke  
6 this after the fact that, you know, later on after all  
7 this was kind of coming out, you know, I apologized for  
8 not telling him this. And I didn't know they were really  
9 good friends, you know, what I mean? So I really didn't  
10 want to get involved in their relationship especially  
11 Kriepke, obviously my boss and they're good friends, and  
12 you start getting into that, you know. I was just kind  
13 of like -- I tried to take a not get involved approach.

14 DR. MILLS: No, I'm not second guessing --

15 MR. KROPINSKI: Right. I just wanted you -- I  
16 wanted to explain my feelings of that situation. It's  
17 kind of sketchy for me.

18 DR. MILLS: No, I appreciate that. I didn't  
19 want you to take that I'm second guessing --

20 MR. KROPINSKI: No.

21 DR. MILLS: -- your decisions on it. I just  
22 wanted to clarify that if, indeed, you had made  
23 reports --

24 MR. KROPINSKI: I --

25 DR. MILLS: -- to Wayne State officials, that



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1 we would want to get just the details on that.

2 MR. KROPINSKI: Right. I have not -- I had not  
3 made reports when all that was going on. I had in the  
4 past, I think it was about three weeks ago, had went to  
5 Public Safety just to see if they had it on record and  
6 they said that they cannot -- if I was not threatened  
7 directly, they cannot take the report. And that's  
8 essentially what they said to tell this committee all  
9 this -- the situation.

10 DR. MILLS: I'm sorry, what prompted you to go  
11 to them?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Just seeing the escalation of  
13 the situation, I felt that -- I wanted to make sure that  
14 it was on record. And for my own safety, knowing that I  
15 was going to be testifying here, that I don't know if  
16 this information is going to travel to Reynold's ears  
17 eventually and how he would react to that so ...

18 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So in this document  
19 that Dr. Kreipke gave us he said that you would testify  
20 that Christian Reynolds made multiple threats including  
21 graphic death threats and malicious harm.

22 MR. KROPINSKI: I would think that that speaks  
23 to the liquid nitrogen in hand -- the hands thing.  
24 That's very graphic. It was very specific --

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: What about death threats, did



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1           you ever hear him make a death threat?

2                       MR. KROPINSKI: One time when we were going out  
3           to lunch, it was Christian Reynolds and I, and he was  
4           driving and he said, "You know, I could just cut the  
5           brake lines to his car." I mean, he would say things  
6           like that. And I'm -- it was numerous times that he had  
7           mentioned things like that and that's -- you know,  
8           obviously I tried to kind of keep my distance and tried  
9           to always redirect him to talk about something a little  
10          less invasive about, you know, you're talking about your  
11          boss all the time. And so, yeah, I kind -- I tried to  
12          distance myself as much as I could, but the same time  
13          there was a lot of talk in the lab between Fronczak and  
14          Reynolds about Kriepke and his -- like they thought he  
15          was a liar and -- you know, and he would say -- you know,  
16          he would say interesting things like, you know, "I  
17          went -- "When I was in Mexico, I went swimming and there  
18          happened to be whales there." And, you know, he got to  
19          touch it and maybe they interpreted that a being  
20          fanciful. But everything I've heard him say, yeah, maybe  
21          those are fanciful stories, but at the same time it's  
22          possible that that happened. You know what I mean? So  
23          they weren't like -- they were harmless. And I don't  
24          know if Reynolds interpreted that as being, you know, a  
25          lying type of projectory -- or personality or not. But



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1 to my knowledge, I mean, speaking to Kriepke's integrity,  
2 everything that he has told me that, you know, like  
3 you're going to get this position, you're going to  
4 Colorado and present a poster, all those things have come  
5 true. So, you know, that's why I was -- that's why I  
6 distance myself more from Michael Fronczak than Christian  
7 Reynolds. They were very, very close friends.

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Did you present a poster in  
9 Colorado?

10 MR. KROPINSKI: I did.

11 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Which one?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, it was on endothelin  
13 receptor antagonism with clazosentan -- or, no,  
14 cyminocycline -- sorry, minocycline.

15 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Minocycline.

16 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, it was involving  
17 minocycline. And Justin Graves also presented a poster  
18 there in Colorado.

19 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Which one did Justin Graves  
20 present?

21 MR. KROPINSKI: He did one that was involving  
22 behavioral data from previous runs to do -- it was -- it  
23 was involving, I think, runs during the day versus runs  
24 during the night.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Did Dr. Kreipke give a poster



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1 at that meeting?

2 MR. KROPINSKI: He did not. He gave a -- he  
3 actually went to Colorado with Reynolds to -- earlier  
4 than us. They went earlier in the week and they gave a  
5 seminar talk on BQ-123.

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: I see.

7 MR. KROPINSKI: And there was a lot of anxiety  
8 at that time from Christian Reynolds giving that talk.  
9 He felt like the BQ data was not valid for whatever  
10 reason and he -- him and Jim -- Jill Jamison and I talked  
11 before he went in the hallway after work regarding him  
12 going to Colorado. Reynolds did not bring it up to  
13 Kriepke that he had this -- these feelings at all. I  
14 mean, maybe he did in passing saying, you know, I --  
15 Well, no, he didn't. He didn't say like, I don't believe  
16 the data, to Kriepke ever to my knowledge.

17 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Which meeting was this again?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: This was the Colorado meeting.

19 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Which was entitled?

20 MR. KROPINSKI: "Winter Brain."

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: "Winter Brain." And what  
22 year?

23 MR. KROPINSKI: In 2011. This was January.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Ah, ah, yeah, 2011.

25 MR. KROPINSKI: This is the one I attended.



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Got it. Got it. Okay.

2 MR. KROPINSKI: And just prior to going -- this  
3 was a couple days before Reynolds, and I, and this  
4 Jill Jamison were talking about the presentation that he  
5 had to present because Kriepke gave Reynolds the seminar  
6 talk, all right, so he was going to present the seminar  
7 as the seminar speaker and Reynolds didn't want to go.  
8 He thought that that BQ-3 -- BQ-123 data was not valid  
9 for whatever reason and he didn't want to present it.

10 To my knowledge, he didn't ever address this  
11 with Kreipke, which is what we talked about before he  
12 left. I said, "Go and talk to him about your feelings  
13 about the data and tell him you don't want to present  
14 this if you don't -- "if you don't feel like it's valid  
15 data."

16 DR. MILLS: Did you have any knowledge of that  
17 data yourself?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: I didn't. I believe that  
19 was -- that was not -- that was done prior to my time  
20 coming in the lab --

21 DR. MILLS: Okay.

22 MR. KROPINSKI: -- so I had no knowledge of --

23 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Was this stuff ever discussed  
24 at lab meetings?

25 MR. KROPINSKI: No.



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Any of it?

2 MR. KROPINSKI: No, not -- not -- not in most  
3 the lab meetings as when I came into the lab. I came in  
4 as a lab manager, and then Dr. Kreipke kind of organized  
5 the lab as -- I'm running most of the organizational  
6 ordering and setting up like ordering animals and setting  
7 up the experimental schedules, right, and I did -- I had  
8 really a hands-off approach to the data. And  
9 Christian Reynolds was the project leader and he was  
10 setting up the experiments and was to be in direct  
11 contact with Kriepke. So we would often meet in the lab,  
12 you know, Dr. Kreipke, Reynolds, Michael Fronczak, and I.  
13 And when Justin came to the lab, we'd all meet and  
14 discuss, you know, the past experiments for the last week  
15 and what we plan to do and then for the previous weeks  
16 like just basic general -- you know generalization of  
17 this is the experiments we want to run, and then  
18 Chris Reynolds was in the place to design the  
19 experiment -- you know, set up the experiments and say  
20 this is how we're going to run it. And we were having a  
21 lot of problems when they came into the lab regarding  
22 behavioral experiments.

23 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

24 MR. KROPINSKI: We could not get them to -- to  
25 work. I mean there was problems with the animal strain



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1 we found out later that I tracked down.

2 When I came into the lab, there wasn't a very  
3 orderly process of saying this animal tissue came from  
4 this animal, we ordered it on this date, and there was no  
5 tracking system. So that was my first thing when I came  
6 to lab, I said, "Let's get a tracking system and all  
7 that."

8 DR. MILLS: Why isn't there a tracking system?

9 MR. KROPINSKI: I don't know. I don't know. I  
10 don't know why there wasn't. I mean, they would label --  
11 you know, if they did a TBI, they would label it TBI-4  
12 hours on the tissue plate and put the date usually when  
13 it was processed.

14 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So where did all the data come  
15 from that was in papers that were published from those  
16 data? How did they know that the data they were  
17 publishing were accurate?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: I -- at my -- the publications  
19 that we had produced during my time in the lab, that data  
20 was produced before I was in the lab.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So how did --

22 MR. KROPINSKI: We had problems with the  
23 computer data when I came into the lab.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But how did -- but those  
25 papers that were published, the data as you say came from



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1 before --

2 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

3 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- they weren't current data?

4 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And so how -- how did they --  
6 where did the data come from?

7 MR. KROPINSKI: It was generated -- the group  
8 that was in there before was -- Steve Schafer was in the  
9 lab, and I believe Michael Fronczak was in the lab for a  
10 period of time before I was, and Reynolds as well. There  
11 wasn't really any problems with the behavioral runs  
12 before I came in.

13 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But what about just the  
14 regular -- I mean these papers all came out and so can  
15 you tell us a little bit how did that process work? Do  
16 you know? I mean when you were there, did you -- who  
17 wrote the papers? Who wrote the grants? Who -- where  
18 did the data that went into papers come from?

19 MR. KROPINSKI: Right. To my knowledge -- like  
20 I said, I was -- I wasn't dealing with the data on a  
21 day-to-day basis. I mean, I oversaw like editing the  
22 manuscripts before they were submitted. That's pretty  
23 much all of my involvement was with the neurological  
24 manuscripts.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Who edited these manuscripts?



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: They were passed out to the  
2 laboratory and we -- like two each to everybody. I know  
3 Christian Reynolds was highly involved in writing a  
4 number of them, I think Christian Kreipke, and -- I don't  
5 know if Dr. Rafols --

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Writing or editing?

7 MR. KROPINSKI: I believe writing. I don't  
8 known for sure. I didn't -- I didn't see them, you know,  
9 typing at their computer. I would just -- this is an  
10 assumption on my part. Like I said, most of my time was  
11 spent trying to get the lab to be, you know, more  
12 functionally organized.

13 DR. CUNNINGHAM: If I've heard you correctly,  
14 when you said that the procedure for papers was Reynolds  
15 -- I mean, not Reynolds -- Kriepke would hand out the  
16 papers to the people to go through and edit and modify  
17 and would these papers to -- I mean, I guess you're not  
18 involved in that directly, but he would give you stuff to  
19 edit too?

20 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I would get two papers  
21 and I would --

22 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Would they have figures in  
23 them when you got them?

24 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah. Yeah.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Everything would



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1 already be in there when you got it?

2 MR. KROPINSKI: Correct.

3 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

4 MR. KROPINSKI: And in a couple of papers I do  
5 recall -- I mean, Christian Reynolds was given first  
6 author on a number of papers and several he rewrote or  
7 wrote from scratch, and he would pull data off the  
8 computers and incorporate them like, I would assume, into  
9 figures and --

10 DR. MILLS: You have direct knowledge that he  
11 himself wrote papers from scratch or is that just your  
12 impression?

13 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I mean, I know -- he  
14 would brag about the fact that he had to rewrite Cheney's  
15 (ph) paper which --

16 DR. LAPOINTE: Well, that's rewriting. That's  
17 not from scratch.

18 MR. KROPINSKI: Well, okay, yeah. Yeah,  
19 agreed. But, yeah, he would -- he would brag about the  
20 fact that he would have to rewrite this guy's paper  
21 because he was a -- he just graduated with a Ph.D. and --

22 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And that paper he was not an  
23 author on the paper originally --

24 MR. KROPINSKI: Correct.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- on Cheney's paper?



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: No, he was not.

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But then he --

3 MR. KROPINSKI: -- (inaudible) ... first  
4 author.

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Yeah, so he -- well, I -- yes.  
6 Okay.

7 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, and I was wasn't --

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: He put himself as first author  
9 or Dr. Kreipke put him as first author?

10 MR. KROPINSKI: Well, I don't know exactly. I  
11 would assume that they talked, you would think, but I  
12 don't know, and he would say I rewrote this paper. Can I  
13 be first author. Maybe he said that. I don't know what  
14 had transpired.

15 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Fair enough.

16 DR. MILLS: From your perspective --

17 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah.

18 DR. MILLS: -- what factors do you think were  
19 involved in, I'm not sure if we would characterize it,  
20 the changes in the relationship between  
21 Christian Reynolds and Christian Kriepke? What --

22 MR. KROPINSKI: I was trying to figure out that  
23 the whole time. I really don't know what precipitated  
24 the relationship, if it was something personal between  
25 them. Like I said, they did hang out here and there, you



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1 know. I don't -- I don't know.

2 Michael Fronczak though -- there was a couple  
3 instances like I noticed changes after Korea, after he  
4 went to Haiti with him and Christian Reynolds, and after  
5 Mike -- after Justin Graves came into the lab -- this was  
6 in July -- there was a huge animosity against Justin for  
7 whatever reason. Reynolds -- Christian Reynolds took a  
8 disliking to him right away. I remember him saying that  
9 he gave him our Neurological Research Journal to read and  
10 Justin kind of blew it off a little bit and Reynolds was  
11 kind of ticked about that. But he -- he thought he was a  
12 moron. He thought -- you know, he thought he shouldn't  
13 belong here because he came from psychology, you know,  
14 that was his background, so he really didn't do bench  
15 science.

16 And, you know, Justin was interested in  
17 pursuing a Ph.D. and getting his ears wet and doing that  
18 kind, you know, science. And so when he came to the lab,  
19 he really wasn't wet behind the ears. I mean, he  
20 could -- he didn't really know how to work the scale, and  
21 he was getting trained on how to do our surgeries and  
22 whatnot, and Reynolds was very apprehensive to deal with  
23 him and it was almost hostile at times against him. And  
24 he started to at lab meetings -- or actually in private,  
25 you know, he -- Reynolds thought that Graves -- Justin



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1 Graves should not be there. He should not be in the  
2 laboratory. And he even went so far as to say he was a  
3 waste of life to me a couple times which is surprising.

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

5 DR. MILLS: And given just your perspective of  
6 having heard Christian Reynold's perspective, as well  
7 Dr. Kreipke's perspective, --

8 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

9 DR. MILLS: -- based on what you heard, do you  
10 feel that Christian Reynolds -- his concerns had any  
11 legitimacy from your perspective?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Regarding the data and  
13 everything? I -- I knew that the lab was disorganized,  
14 right. I really tried hard and I now feel confident  
15 that, you know, the data that he had said regarding  
16 behavioral data is valid data. I mean, we've done runs.  
17 These were done by our medical students that --

18 DR. MILLS: Since you've come on board?

19 MR. KROPINSKI: Since I've come on board.

20 DR. MILLS: Okay.

21 MR. KROPINSKI: Now, the experiments that  
22 Christian Reynolds was in charge of were highly  
23 criticized by myself and others in the lab. The ends a  
24 lot of the times were too small. And his -- you know,  
25 Christian Reynold's response to me is like, "We just want



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1 to see a trend. Let's see if we use, you know, these  
2 animals that we had leftover." But the experiments were  
3 not well designed in my opinion.

4 I know he had a huge problem with the fact that  
5 we weren't using control groups for every experiment and  
6 that wasn't the way the grant was written. The grant was  
7 written to run the TBI groups. And because of the animal  
8 waste, you don't want to waste animals and you just  
9 needed to do twelve animals per run to get your  
10 statistical validity. And that's what, to my knowledge,  
11 was done previous when Schafer was doing it because I've  
12 spoken with Schafer when we started to have problems with  
13 those behavioral one. So in my -- from for perspective,  
14 you know, I took Reynolds concerns to heart and I tried  
15 to objectively see what -- what was going on. I didn't  
16 see in my mind any problem with the data, you know, with  
17 the BQ-3 data. I always thought to myself that, you  
18 know, he said -- Reynolds had problems thinking that it  
19 didn't cross the blood-brain barrier and we're giving an  
20 IV and all this, and I just said, "How do you know that  
21 it's -- that the blood-brain barrier is completely  
22 intact?" You know, and Bill Armstead in, I think, Penn  
23 State has made his whole career of studying how, you  
24 know, BQ-123's action in the blood-brain barriers  
25 integrity after TBI. So, you know, he was making



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1 assumptions I felt that weren't, you know, sound and so  
2 that's why I was a little skeptical to kind of, you know,  
3 go down that road with him, you know.

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Let me come back to  
5 this one statement though here. So this was from  
6 Dr. Kreipke. It's the second part of that paragraph we  
7 just gave you and it says that "He will testify to the  
8 fact that the accuser did not follow lab protocol, --

9 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

10 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- "did not properly document  
11 data, had access to all data, and attempted to manipulate  
12 data on several occasions." Just can you just go through  
13 each of those --

14 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

15 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- and tell us -- you know,  
16 just address each of those?

17 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure. With the "Did not follow  
18 lab protocol," this was particularly pertaining to the  
19 behavioral experiments because he was the project leader  
20 and was designing the experiments. He himself would say  
21 "We're going to not do food deprivation this run."  
22 Because typically in a behavioral run we would deprive  
23 the animals for food -- from food for a twenty-four hour  
24 period prior to the start. So when the behavioral  
25 experiments were not working, we started to kind of mess



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1           around with the paradigms. At this point though, he was  
2           getting extremely frustrated with the fact that we  
3           couldn't get runs that were working, right, this with  
4           Reynolds. He felt frustrated and a lot of the times he  
5           wouldn't -- if we were doing, for example, a ten-minute  
6           paradigm, right, where we said each animal has ten  
7           minutes, and if the one finishes in five, you wait the  
8           additional five minutes to start so everyone's on a time  
9           line. He would be frustrated with that and just say "It  
10          doesn't matter, just throw the animal in."

11                         And Justin can testify to that too. We both  
12          had problem with that. We brought those concerns up.  
13          But he was -- he was, you know, very -- he just kind of  
14          did his own thing like that. I mean, we were both  
15          running an experiment, he throws it in. I'm like, "Dude,  
16          let's stick to the protocol." And he would be like "It  
17          doesn't matter anyway." And I'm kind of like, okay,  
18          whatever. And he was the project leader. We thought he  
19          was in direct contact with Dr. Kreipke with what he was  
20          doing. So that's speaking to the "Did not follow the  
21          protocol."

22                         DR. GRIMM: Can I follow up?

23                         MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

24                         DR. GRIMM: Because you started to mention one  
25          thing about --



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah.

2 DR. GRIMM: -- he was frustrated, you were all  
3 frustrated that you weren't matching the data and you  
4 were trying to investigate why.

5 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah. Yeah, so we started  
6 shifting the paradigms around and the ends -- the animal  
7 numbers and the runs were not significant. There weren't  
8 twelve animals. I said, you know, "Stick to one variable  
9 at a time, please. Let's just do a good run and stay  
10 consistent and, you know, change one thing at a time to  
11 see what's going on."

12 There were issues with the animal strain, that  
13 I had found it. I uncovered that the vendor was sending  
14 us -- there was a substrain of Sprague Dawley rats called  
15 SAS strain versus CD strain and our -- when I came into  
16 the lab in March, we started to see mortality rates from  
17 our TBIs go up astounding. Like 80 percent would have  
18 nose bleeds or stop breathing after the TBI and so we  
19 were -- you know, we were perplexed about that and like  
20 we were trying to hunt down the reason for that, was it  
21 the animals age, weights, whatever, and I started -- and  
22 then I called the vendor. We found that they were giving  
23 us a different substrain. So I just -- there's so much  
24 to this thing. I'm sorry, if I keep going off a little  
25 bit.



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1 DR. MILLS: What about the allegation that  
2 Christian Reynolds attempted to manipulate data on  
3 several occasions. Do you have any direct knowledge of  
4 that?

5 MR. KROPINSKI: I don't have direct knowledge  
6 of the fact that he actually manipulated data. I never  
7 saw him change anything. But the thing that was  
8 skeptical in my mind is the fact that he would often  
9 spend overnight in the laboratory. I mean, he had his  
10 toothbrush there. He was kind of a strange guy, hippyish  
11 type of guy. He's a smart guy, you know, and nice to --  
12 give his cup coffee to a bum on the side of the street.  
13 He's, you know, a nice guy. But he had open access to  
14 Kriepke's lab, to his computer. His office was open  
15 24/7. The computers were unlocked. There's --

16 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So that means everybody in the  
17 lab had access to his computers?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: Yes. All right. And  
19 oftentimes when Kriepke was out of town for, say, going  
20 to Mexico, he would, you know, leave his computer  
21 unlocked so that if we were writing a manuscript or --  
22 not me, but if someone was involved in writing something  
23 or getting a poster together they could pull the data off  
24 his computer.

25 And when this -- the allegation Reynolds --



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1           this was probably in January or December sometime when  
2           Reynolds was thinking about putting this -- this  
3           allegation and submitting it, he pulled me when  
4           Dr. Kreipke was out of town into Kriepke's lab -- into  
5           his office and said, "Look at this MRI data. It  
6           doesn't -- it doesn't look good." And I was just like --  
7           I didn't even know how to interpret the data. It was --  
8           you know, it was just graphs. And I was like, you know,  
9           I don't know why -- why are you digging through all his  
10          files essentially, that's what I'm thinking. I go -- you  
11          know, I don't know, he was just -- in my mind it was a  
12          little sketchy, you know. At the time, I was like okay,  
13          you know, maybe he's just looking through data, maybe he  
14          found something that he felt, you know, was interesting.  
15          I didn't really know what to make of it at the time, but  
16          he definitely had access. And with the building hatred  
17          for Kriepke, it's just a little skeptical in my mind, you  
18          know, to his motives that's all.

19                   DR. CUNNINGHAM: All right.

20                   MR. KROPINSKI: But --

21                   DR. CUNNINGHAM: That's okay. That's great.

22           Let me just move through a few more quick questions, just  
23           to basic stuff here.

24                   MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

25                   DR. CUNNINGHAM: Were you involved in any of



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1 the experiments with clazosentan?

2 MR. KROPINSKI: Clazosen -- recently, yes,  
3 previous, no.

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

5 MR. KROPINSKI: So previous to --

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So when you say recently, by  
7 "recently" you mean --

8 MR. KROPINSKI: We'd -- we had six medical  
9 students and four undergrad -- or undergraduate students  
10 over the summer and we performed experiments involving  
11 clazosentan, so, yes.

12 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So that was this last  
13 summer then?

14 MR. KROPINSKI: Right, just this last summer.

15 DR. LAPOINTE: But not any time previous?

16 MR. KROPINSKI: No.

17 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. What about bosentan?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: Bosentan? No.

19 DR. CUNNINGHAM: BQ-123?

20 MR. KROPINSKI: Yes, I believe so.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: How are you involved in those?

22 MR. KROPINSKI: I mean, I participated in a  
23 number -- numerous all the behavioral runs that we were  
24 doing. You know, the lab would divide up. You're on  
25 nights for Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and you would run



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1 the experiment. There was always two people.

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: And your role in those  
3 experiments was that?

4 MR. KROPINSKI: Just to carry out the  
5 protocols. So I would -- we would be encoding data, and  
6 so the data -- they have a computer monitor with a camera  
7 that's overlooking the (RAM) the Radial-Arm Maze, and one  
8 person would be handling the animals and putting them  
9 into the experiment, and one would be starting the clock  
10 and coding which arm they went into, what errors --

11 DR. CUNNINGHAM: All right. So it was --

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Yes, I was involved.

13 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- actually recording the  
14 behavioral --

15 MR. KROPINSKI: Right, but -- and then there  
16 was no question --

17 DR. CUNNINGHAM: What about the -- what about  
18 the treatment of the animals though?

19 MR. KROPINSKI: The treatments of the animals?  
20 From my perspective --

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: The TBI, the administering the  
22 drug, any of that? Who was doing that?

23 MR. KROPINSKI: That was flipped. Again, the  
24 TBI surgeries and the -- the injections of any drug that  
25 we were doing was done -- most of those runs though I



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1 don't think included any -- any treatments. It was just  
2 sham and TBI for the most part with changing paradigms,  
3 but --

4 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But I was talking about the  
5 BQ-123.

6 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I'm trying to think. I  
7 mean it's hard for me to -- with all the -- but, yeah, I  
8 would have been involved doing injections. Steve Schafer  
9 was there when I first started and he did injections and  
10 things like that. Animals were treated, you know --

11 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Who does that stuff now that  
12 they're all gone? I mean --

13 MR. KROPINSKI: Oh, yeah, I'm doing that.

14 DR. CUNNINGHAM: You're doing the stuff now --

15 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I do.

16 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- the injections the --

17 MR. KROPINSKI: Justin Graves and I do all the  
18 surgeries, TBIs, sham surgeries, injections, handle the  
19 animals, change gauges. We do pretty much everything  
20 now.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. And the BQ-788?

22 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, to my -- I don't recall  
23 doing any experiments --

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. And fluoro-jade  
25 staining?



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, I did not. I've done  
2 recently some runs, but I haven't done any runs -- I did  
3 some like assisting Schafer when I first started, and I  
4 know Michael Fronczak did a bunch of runs and he was  
5 having troubles with them. Um --

6 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. And are you having  
7 troubles with them? You're doing them now?

8 MR. KROPINSKI: No, I've done -- I've done some  
9 runs with -- we changed -- we were doing cryo-studded  
10 sections that were 40 microns thick prior. We've  
11 switched now to embedded sections to do -- because we had  
12 a technician, Wei Sheng (ph). She was from pathology  
13 come into the laboratory and she showed us how to do  
14 paraffin insec -- paraffin-embedded sections that are a  
15 little thinner, like 6 microns, so I had -- I got the  
16 technique too with methamphetamine treated brains from a  
17 mouse tissue, and so now we're just kind of right now  
18 trouble shooting to get the right thickness. We're  
19 trying to get a little thicker section because the 6  
20 microns didn't really show much so --

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Activity. So is it working  
22 now or is it not?

23 MR. KROPINSKI: The protocol is working, but in  
24 terms of doing an experimental run, we're kind of like in  
25 preliminary stages.



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

2 MR. KROPINSKI: The technique is working, but  
3 right now we're trying to get the prep for the histology  
4 tissue --

5 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So it's your belief that the  
6 technique is working now because you've made these  
7 changes?

8 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah. I mean --

9 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Does that mean it wasn't  
10 working before you made the changes?

11 MR. KROPINSKI: I don't -- I would say that the  
12 person running it, which was Michael Fronczak, was not --  
13 he didn't have a real depth of knowledge in that realm.  
14 I mean, he wasn't like Weiss who knows histology very  
15 well. He's been doing it for thirty years.

16 DR. CUNNINGHAM: What about before he came  
17 though?

18 MR. KROPINSKI: Schafer was doing those. And  
19 to my knowledge when I spoke to Schafer "Have you had any  
20 problems with fluoro-jade in the past?" He said, "No."  
21 He said, but he did the runs and he had success with  
22 them.

23 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But did this technique that  
24 you changed, that you say now is working --

25 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.



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1 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- to you knowledge was that  
2 the same technique that Schafer was using back in the  
3 day?

4 MR. KROPINSKI: Um, I mean, the protocol is  
5 essentially the same except that you have -- you know,  
6 the tissues is different. It's paraffin embedded so  
7 there's styrene treatment and ethanol, --

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Right, so --

9 MR. KROPINSKI: -- but essentially it's the  
10 same. I mean, you have to -- because the thickness of  
11 the tissue is different, you're going to have mess with  
12 the -- with the concentration of fluoro-jade and  
13 background like potassium permanganate and all that, so  
14 that's -- we kind --

15 DR. CUNNINGHAM: But what I'm trying to get at  
16 is you had said earlier, I believe, that you attributed  
17 the trouble you were having before you made this change  
18 to the paraffin-embedded samples to the reason they  
19 weren't working before.

20 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: My question is, During the  
22 time while you were there that they weren't working --

23 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- and the time that Schafer  
25 was doing them, did any -- were the procedures different?



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1 MR. KROPINSKI: Not to my knowledge.

2 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. So --

3 MR. KROPINSKI: I know Michael, when he's had  
4 some troubles doing it, I mean, he probably changed  
5 variables here and there, you know, with the protocol,  
6 but I think it was essentially there's not much else to  
7 do.

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Stay focused here.  
9 We're going to run out of time, you know.

10 Do you do the microscopy too then? You do --  
11 you do capture the images?

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I've done that. We  
13 haven't done any analysis.

14 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Tell me what you -- you're at  
15 the camera, the microscope, you capture an image --

16 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, it's the big TIFF file.

17 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Right -- then what do you do  
18 with it?

19 MR. KROPINSKI: I would put it onto a external  
20 hard drive and we take it up and we'd show it at a lab  
21 meeting generally.

22 DR. CUNNINGHAM: What happens to it after that?

23 MR. KROPINSKI: After that, it would be put  
24 into the, you know, database on the computer.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: The computer. Which one?



1 MR. KROPINSKI: We had -- I know it's a  
2 little -- there's the main lab computer now that we have,  
3 and I -- we're going to get a second so we have all lab  
4 manager stuff on one and all of our data on another.  
5 That's obviously more secure. And so the file would just  
6 be stored on the computer and -- the histology,  
7 fluoro-jade, or whatever file we need.

8 DR. CUNNINGHAM: How do you label those files?  
9 Because you must take a lot of images, right?

10 MR. KROPINSKI: Yes.

11 DR. CUNNINGHAM: I mean there must be a zillion  
12 of them.

13 MR. KROPINSKI: Definitely, and that's why when  
14 I came into the lab there wasn't really -- when Michael  
15 was taking pictures of them, there wasn't a good way -- I  
16 mean they're still on the computer, you know, and just  
17 labeled as Michael Fronczak --

18 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Right.

19 MR. KROPINSKI: -- so there wasn't real good  
20 labeling.

21 DR. CUNNINGHAM: So all those papers that were  
22 published from data where there wasn't a good system, how  
23 did those -- how did people choose those figures to put  
24 in those papers and grants and stuff?

25 MR. KROPINSKI: I was not involved in that, so



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1 I really can't speak to it. I know that the figures that  
2 Michael Fronczak was -- or not figures, the experiments  
3 that he did with fluoro-jade, that data was after. I  
4 think all the images for fluoro-jade at least were done  
5 in Steven Schafer's time, so those are experiments done  
6 when he was here so I really can't speak to that. At the  
7 time when -- you know when I talked to Schafer about the  
8 experiment, he really -- he said that, you know, that it  
9 wasn't a big problem.

10 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay. Tell me about the  
11 research notebooks --

12 MR. KROPINSKI: Right.

13 DR. CUNNINGHAM: -- how were they kept when you  
14 first joined the lab. And so when somebody was going to  
15 go do an experiment, tell me how they did that. What is  
16 that?

17 MR. KROPINSKI: When I first came into the lab,  
18 things were a little bit relaxed. Behavioral experiment  
19 data was -- because there's always two people, there was  
20 a notebook always for behavioral data. And as far as  
21 behavioral data, you know, the notes were taken, we had  
22 the raw data, you know, it was input into the computer,  
23 and it was followed and analyzed.

24 As far as any other experiments, if  
25 Michael Fronczak -- on my prompting, I said, you know,



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1           what experiments are you doing, where are they recorded,  
2           he started a notebook with some of fluoro-jade stuff. I  
3           don't -- I don't know how much is in there right now, but  
4           he -- he did that. There was -- from Christian Reynold's  
5           point of view, he kept all his notes on his laptop, which  
6           I didn't agree with, but that's what he did. And we  
7           obviously were moving towards trying to get everyone to  
8           have a lab notebook and write it down consistently. So  
9           there wasn't a really good way of recording things when I  
10          first came to the lab.

11                         DR. CUNNINGHAM: Okay.

12                         DR. LAPOINTE: If you had to find data or  
13           protocols, would you leaf through previous notebooks or  
14           rifle through a bunch of papers in the lab?

15                         MR. KROPINSKI: No, I think the way it worked,  
16           you know, because I came in right when this neurological  
17           research was being put together, this issue, so, I mean,  
18           I wasn't really involved in any of the experiments. But  
19           what I gathered from how they were organizing everything  
20           when the experiment was done, it would -- if there was  
21           images or protocols, they would be put on that -- the  
22           main computer and then they would typically be backed up  
23           to Kriepke's computer. And then if someone was writing a  
24           paper, I'm sure that they would talk to Dr. Kreipke and  
25           compile what they needed and go from there. I mean,



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1 that's to my knowledge how it would be, you know,  
2 accomplished.

3 DR. LAPOINTE: Would you say that most of the  
4 people who worked in the lab when you were -- yeah,  
5 previous to now so --

6 MR. KROPINSKI: Sure.

7 DR. LAPOINTE: -- 2010 and present, most of  
8 the people in the lab would be relatively inexperienced  
9 as bench scientists?

10 MR. KROPINSKI: As bench scientists? I mean  
11 Reynolds was a second year med student and, I mean, I'm  
12 sure he had a limited -- he knew his way around the  
13 laboratory, but he had, I mean, limited experience at  
14 working in a research lab.

15 And Michael Fronczak didn't really have that  
16 much bench experience. I know from my perspective, I've  
17 worked for five other -- four other PIs, you know,  
18 through the university, so that's what Kriepke and I,  
19 when we were talking, he wanted me to come over and be  
20 the lab manager because I had a lot of experience doing  
21 that so ...

22 DR. LAPOINTE: Right. And Justin Graves had no  
23 basic science background either?

24 MR. KROPINSKI: Correct.

25 DR. CUNNINGHAM: You worked as a research



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1 assistant in five other labs?

2 MR. KROPINSKI: Yeah, I worked -- yeah, for  
3 Dr. Rudin in Toxicology, and Dr. Newsome on main campus  
4 when I was just coming out undergraduate, and Michael  
5 under Dr. Cheney in the Pet Center at Children's  
6 Hospital. I kind of -- I wanted to feel out all the  
7 different types of research before I went after a career  
8 path, so long, long road.

9 DR. MILLS: I have no more questions.

10 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Nor do I.

11 DR. GRIMM: Neither do I.

12 DR. CUNNINGHAM: All right. Let's go off the  
13 record.

14 (A brief recess was taken at 3:00 p.m. to 3:04  
15 p.m.)

16 EXAMINATION OF BRANDON CANTAZARO

17 DR. NELSON: Hi, Brandon.

18 MR. CANTAZARO: Hi. How are you doing?

19 DR. NELSON: Fine.

20 This is Brandon Cantazaro. This is the  
21 committee.

22 DR. CUNNINGHAM: How are you doing?

23 MR. CANTAZARO: Good.

24 DR. CUNNINGHAM: Good. Have a seat.

25 DR. NELSON: I'm Dorothy Nelson, and you just



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