

In the rat implantation work, a rat was assumed to use PK to influence an RNG to increase the number of stimuli it received in a pleasure center. Dr. Levy (WJL) surgically implanted electrodes in pleasure centers in the rats. After the operation, the animals¹ bar pressing rate to receive the stimulation was used to verify that the electrode was in a pleasure center. WJL had been working on this line of research for several months (Levy, 1973) when I (JK) began working with him. I was co-experimenter on the experiment in which it was discovered that WJL was fraudulently producing significant results.

After WJL was confronted with his falsification of the rat implantation work, he admitted having falsified the recent rat work (all the work that I was involved with). He claimed, however, that his previous rat work was good, and the falsifications came only when the genuine effect was lost. When WJL left, 3 rats were available for testing. Two were claimed to be genuinely successful in earlier work. The third had only been tested in the falsified work. Working with the rats was difficult because the experimental note book (last seen in WJL's possession) was unexplainably "lost."

On the first attempt at testing the highest scoring rat the electrodes were torn out when an assistant (E.C.) tried to plug the rat into the equipment. The remaining, previously successful rat showed no self-stimulation--as was in line with WJL's story. However, the previously successful test parameters were unknown due to the loss of the lab book.

Although this rat showed no self-stimulation it was subjected to several PK tests. The first session showed overall missing

(412/900 CR= -2.5 P<.02 (2-tailed)). Several further test sessions showed no significant or consistent deviations.

After WJL left the Institute, outside the lab he implanted electrodes in 2 additional rats and offered them for experimental work. These two plus the one rat used only in falsified work made three rats prepared by WJL that were essentially untested. WJL had taken as evidence for self-stimulation a bar pressing rate of 250 bar presses per hour. Occasionally these rats would surpass this bar pressing criterion, but no animal would do this consistently. These rats were also subjected to PK tests with only chance results.

Four other rats were prepared by Doug Richards and Evelyn Crum-packer following WJL's methods of implantation. These were their first operations without WJL and the four rats that survived were in general not ideal subjects. These rats also showed no consistent self-stimulation and no evidence for PK.

After WJL left, the staff began learning about standard rat implantation procedures from other sources. The reason for the lack of rats consistently meeting WJL's bar pressing criterion soon became apparent. Standard implantation work shows bar pressing rates of about 1800 for septal electrodes and 3600 for hypothalamic electrodes (using 1/2 sec. 100 Hz pulse trains) presses per hour rather than the 200-400 found by WJL in these sites. We found that if a rat was handled roughly (as WJL did) he would press the bar over 250 times/hour without any stimulation. Part of this is because the poorly designed bar used by WJL would be pressed when an active animal moves around the cage. The 250 presses/hour criterion used by WJL was established empirically by WJL rather than by consulting the rat implantation literature. In light of this, it seems doubtful that WJL ever had a rat that would truly self-stimulate.

Kennedy 3.

Further investigation revealed that the method of insulating the electrodes was not acceptable. By measuring electrode resistances and examining electrodes that were pulled out, it became apparent that the epoxy coating dissolved over a period of several days, making the electrodes dysfunctional.

At this point, rather than starting the rat implantation work from scratch, the project was abandoned. ###

Research in Parapsychology, 1973, p. 78.

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