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**Federal Reports Reveal Negligent Deaths at U.S. Drug Testing Labs:  
Merck, Charles River, Wuxi Apptec Latest Targets of Watchdog Complaints**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Recently obtained federal reports reveal deaths by overdose, traumatic injuries, and flubbed testing within the research laboratories of prominent pharmaceutical companies Charles River (MA), Wuxi Apptec (MN) and Merck Sharp & Dohme (NJ). These latest incidents follow negligent deaths in at least four other facilities.

SAEN, a national research watchdog group, said federal reports for the period 2009-2011 disclose nine negligent animal deaths at Charles Rivers alone. The reports, filed by Charles River, the Wilmington (MA) killed four primates, one dog and four rabbits because of negligence.

Federal reports for the Wuxi Apptec company log four animal deaths – one by overdose, one by vertebral fracture, and two suspicious animal deaths while in restraint devices, as recounted in a complaint filed with the USDA.

A 2011 federal report filed by Merck Sharp & Dohme recounts two primate deaths during oral toxicity tests after which staff were required to be retrained.

“Charles River, Wuxi Apptec, and Merck Sharp & Dohme cannot deny these violations,” said Michael A. Budkie, A.H.T., Executive Director, SAEN. “They listed these incidents in their own reports.”

The three testing labs are just the latest in a rash of corporate labs disclosed to have negligent deaths.

MPI Research of Mattawan (MI) is already the subject of a case being developed by the USDA, Two primate deaths have been discovered at Bristol Myers (NJ) and Santa Cruz Biotech (CA) is the subject of a 10 page complaint previously filed by the USDA. TRS labs (GA) has been repeatedly cited for inadequate veterinary care and animal deaths.

“The US is facing an epidemic of negligence within corporate labs,” added Budkie. “These facilities not only kill animals through carelessness, they also endanger public safety.”

The USDA reports are available upon request from SAEN.