Universities in this country have three prominent missions: teaching, research and service to the broader community. Research is a critical component of the mission of academic institutions because it is the source of new knowledge that underlies progress in all human endeavors. University-sponsored research has made remarkable contributions to society. Unfortunately, the number of threats to research endeavors at universities is growing rapidly. Among these threats, our primary concern is the ongoing use of harassment, intimidation and violent attacks mounted by individuals opposed to certain types of research on college campuses. Recent attacks have targeted scholars engaged in research on Middle Eastern politics, as well as those who use vertebrate animal subjects. At UCLA alone, at least 13 acts of violence since June 2006 have targeted individuals who do research involving animals, including a car bombing at a researcher’s home in March 2009. Illegal acts of violence and abusive behavior are a threat to the research mission of universities and are to be condemned harshly. They also represent an infringement of academic freedom, which is the principle that underlies the pursuit of new knowledge at modern universities. We strongly support the rights of our colleagues and other university researchers to engage in scholarly research in a safe and open environment, and we condemn the use of violence and other forms of intimidation that erode our shared values.