



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive - MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

November 17, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3177-01 [OLAW Case 1I]

Dr. Martha P. Farrell  
General Counsel and  
Vice President of Human Resources  
Schepens Eye Research Institute  
243 Charles Street, (b) (4)  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Dr. Farrell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 13, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Schepens Eye Research Institute. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a laboratory associate failed to provide food to one cage of mice following their post-procedural transfer into a new cage. Animal facility staff promptly added food to the hopper, provided both Hydrogel and pellets on the cage floor, administered subcutaneous fluids and kept the animals warm until fully recovered. The associated animal activity was PHS funded.

The corrective actions consisted of all laboratory personnel checking in with the Principal Investigator (PI) prior to and after performing an animal procedure, completing the pre- and post-procedural checklist following every survival surgery which must be reviewed by the PI and the PI conducting random checks of cages following the performance of animal procedures by laboratory staff. The IACUC has also determined that continuing noncompliance by the responsible laboratory associate will result in escalating sanctions on animal use.

Your prompt and thorough resolution of this matter is commendable and consistent with the PHS philosophy of monitored self-regulation. We appreciate having been informed about this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



**Schepens Eye  
Research Institute  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear**

AG177-1I

Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 08/07/2020

November 13, 2017

Brent Morse D.V.M, DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982.

Dear Dr. Morse,

On October 4, 2017 at 12pm, a quorum of the Schepens Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) found, by a unanimous vote, that a laboratory at Schepens conducted a reportable violation of our Institute's PHS Assurance #D16-00112 and established Schepens IACUC Policies.

The committee voted unanimously that a laboratory committed the following violation:

- **Failure to replace food following a procedure:** The Animal Facility Staff noted a cage of mice was found with water but no food on a Tuesday. Upon finding the animals with no food, the Animal Facility Staff added food to the hopper, provided pellets on the bottom of the cage and also a Hydrogel pack. Subcutaneous fluids were also administered to the mice and the mice were kept warm until fully recovered.

The issue of non-compliance was performed on a NIH funded protocol (grant number: 2R01, EY019703).

Upon discovery of the violation, the following steps were taken:

- The Animal Facility contacted the PI and the lab member responsible for the cage of mice.
  - The lab member responsible for the mice stated that they had put the mice into a new cage with a water bottle following a procedure and forgot to add new food. The Veterinary Technologist informed the Committee that the lab had created a pre- and post-procedure checklist that each lab member was to complete for each procedure to help prevent something like this from happening. Despite this procedure, the lab member in question forgot to add food to the new cage.
  - The PI was notified and asked how they would prevent this from occurring again. The PI was very upset that this occurred with her lab and informed the Animal Facility Staff as well as the IACUC Chair, that she is now requiring her lab members to physically check in with her before and after every animal procedure to review the completed checklist and confirm with each lab member that everything on the checklist was completed. She will also perform spot check inspections of the cages after animal procedures.

The Committee reviewed the checklist and unanimously agreed to the PI's plan: (i) the lab members must complete the pre/post procedure checklist for every survival procedure, (ii)



Harvard Medical School Affiliate

each lab member must check in with the PI before and after every animal procedure and reviews the completed checklist, and (iii) the PI will perform spot checks of the cages following animal procedures. The Committee noted that if another incident of non-compliance occurs with the lab member in question, the IACUC may put in place additional restrictions on animal use.

If you have any further comments or questions, please contact me at [Martha\\_farrell@meei.harvard.edu](mailto:Martha_farrell@meei.harvard.edu), or by phone at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Martha Pyle Farrell  
General Counsel & Vice President of Human Resources  
Institutional Official

cc: Meredith Gregory-Ksander, Ph.D., IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

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AAALAC

**Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]**

A3177-

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Farrell, Martha Pyle; (b) (6) Gregory, Meredith; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Schepens Eye Research Institute (D16-00112) Report of Non-Compliance (Case KK)

Thank you for this final report (b) (6). We will send an official response soon.

Best Regards,  
Neera

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

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**From:** (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@MEEI.HARVARD.EDU]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 17, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Farrell, Martha Pyle <Martha\_Farrell@MEEI.HARVARD.EDU>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@meei.harvard.edu; Gregory, Meredith <Meredith\_Gregory@MEEI.HARVARD.EDU> (b) (6)  
(b) (6)@MEEI.HARVARD.EDU  
**Subject:** Schepens Eye Research Institute (D16-00112) Report of Non-Compliance (Case KK)

Dr. Morse,

Attached please find a letter from our Institutional Official, Martha Pyle Farrell, reporting an issue of non-compliance (Case KK) that occurred at Schepens Eye Research Institute (Assurance Number: D16-00112).

This occurred in mice on an NIH funded protocol.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Thanks,

(b) (6)

