



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) 496-7065

March 27, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A4117-01 [OLAW Case W]

Colonel (b) (6)
Commander
WRAIR/NMRC
503 Robert Grant Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910-7500

Dear (b) (6),

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 26, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research/Naval Medical Research Center, following up on an initial September 12, 2017 email notification. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that four mice housed within the same cage during the acclimation period were found dead over the weekend. The animal activity in question was not supported by PHS funds.

The IACUC subcommittee investigated the incident and a definitive cause of death could not be determined since it was identified that no experimental manipulations were performed on the animals, multiple wellness checks were performed and necropsy reports were inconclusive due to significant autolysis. No additional actions were taken by the IACUC in response to the incident.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for 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



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH
503 ROBERT GRANT AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910-7500

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCMR-UWZ-A

26 February 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT Director,
Veterinary Medical Officer, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institutes of
Health, Bethesda, MD 20892

SUBJECT: Final Report of Potential Adverse Event from September 2017 from Facility
A4117-01 (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research/Naval Medical Research Center)

1. On 12 September 2017, (b) (6) contacted you via email and provided a preliminary report on a potential animal welfare concern. Four mice in one cage (on a non-federally funded study) that were still in the acclimation stage were found dead over the weekend of 9-10 September 2017.
2. A subcommittee of two IACUC members was assigned to investigate the incident. Their findings indicated that the investigator had not performed any experimental manipulations on the mice. Also, there were multiple wellness checks conducted on the mice by several different individuals, and no issues were identified during those checks. Necropsy reports were inconclusive due to advanced autolysis, save for the observation of stool pellets in the colon. They were unable to conclusively determine a cause for the incident and had no recommended courses of action.
3. The findings of the subcommittee were presented to the IACUC at the monthly meeting in October. The committee agreed that no further action was necessary, beyond documenting the incident.
4. POC for this action is (b) (6), (b) (6),
(b) (6).

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

COL, VC

Institutional Official, WRAIR/NMRC

15 MAR 2018

Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 2:25 PM
To: (b) (6) MAJ USARMY USN NAVMEDRSCHCEN SVS MD (US); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6) (US); USARMY Ft Detrick MEDCOM WRAIR Mailbox IACUC
Subject: RE: Preliminary Report

Thank you for this preliminary report (b) (6). If there is a concern that this incident could potentially be a programmatic concern we will start a new case file and look forward to receiving the final report from the IO after the IACUC has completed its investigation.

Best Regards,
 Neera

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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

From: (b) (6) MAJ USARMY USN NAVMEDRSCHCEN SVS MD (US) [mailto:(b) (6).mil@mail.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 1:13 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) (US) (b) (6) @mail.mil>; USARMY Ft Detrick MEDCOM WRAIR Mailbox IACUC (b) (6) @mail.mil>
Subject: Preliminary Report

Good afternoon,
 As the acting IACUC Chair for the animal facility at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research/Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, MD (assurance number A4117-01), I would like to make a preliminary report on a potential animal welfare concern.

I was just informed today that a cage of mice (4 total) died over the weekend and it appears they may have been without food since arrival into the facility on Tuesday. We are currently performing an investigation into the matter and should have full details and a plan of correction following our IACUC meeting next week (21st), with a report from the IO to come soon after the meeting.

The mice were on an active protocol, but were still in the acclimatization period, so no work had been done on them yet. I do not know at this time if this study was receiving PHS funds, but will get that information as soon as possible.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. If the study is not PHS-funded, would you still like a final report, as this could be a potential programmatic concern?

Thank you for your help,
 (b) (6)

(b) (6) DVM, DACLA...
MAJ, VC, USA
Command Veterinarian, NMRC
Deputy Director, RSS
Acting Chair, WRAIR/NMRC IACUC

Naval Medical Research Center
500 Robert Grant Ave. Rm (b) (6)
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Office: (b) (6)