



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
Telephong: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

August 30, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3205-01 [OLAW Case I]

Ms. Sheila Garrity
Executive Director
Research Integrity and Compliance
George Washington University
2121 Eye Street, N.W., Room #
Washington, DC 20052

Dear Ms. Garrity,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 30, 2017 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at George Washington University, following up on an initial telephone report on August 17, 2017. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that nine rats died due to failure of the heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) system which caused the room to overheat. The problem was not identified until the next day when animal care staff entered the room.

The corrective actions consisted of placing the surviving rats in a cooler room and repairing the HVAC. A temperature and humidity sensing system will be installed in all animal housing rooms. This system will alert maintenance and animal facility management staff when room temperature and/or humidity is outside of the established parameters.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair

August 30, 2017

Axel Wolff, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The George Washington University, in accordance with Assurance D16-00128 (formerly A3205-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of non-compliance regarding an incident involving a temperature Elevation in the animal facility which caused the death of nine rats.

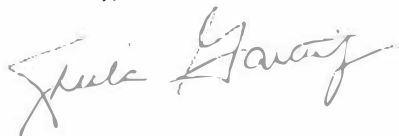
On the morning of August 7, 2017, an animal care technician entered the rat housing room (Room 308, Ross Hall) to perform routine checks. The technician found the temperature in the room to be 99°F and reported the elevated temperature to the Facility Director. Upon contacting the Facility Maintenance department, it was determined that an HVAC failure occurring on the evening prior caused the extreme increase in temperature. The rats were relocated to a cooler room in the facility and the HVAC issues were resolved immediately.

The IACUC was notified of the issue and the following corrective plan was initiated immediately:

A modern temperature and humidity sensory system is being installed in all animal housing rooms in the Animal Research Facility. Once the new system is in place, the Facility Maintenance group and Animal Research Facility Management will be notified immediately via phone, text, and email whenever the temperature and/or humidity is outside the parameters set forth in The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

The nine rats were part of three different projects, each of which receives PHS funding. Seven rats under Dr. David Mendelowitz (IACUC #A073 and A074) were funded through NIH, grant #HL72006 and HL133862. One rat under Dr. Emilia Entcheva (IACUC #A359) was funded via NIH, grant #R01HL111649, and NSF, grant #1623068. The final rat under Dr. Igor Efimov (IACUC #A364) was funded through NIH, grant #7R01HL114395-04.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sheila Garrity". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" and last name "Garrity" clearly distinguishable.

Sheila R. Garrity, JD, MPH, MBA
Institutional Official
Associate Vice President for Research Integrity

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Secondary Individual

Secondary Individual

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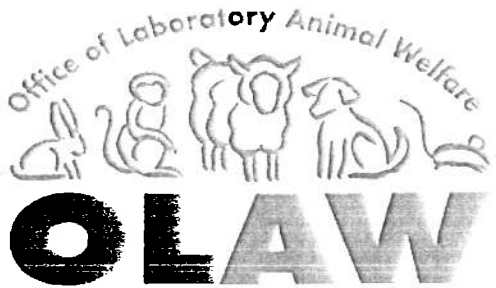
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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: aeDate: 8/17/17Time: 9:35

Name of Person reporting:

Secondary Individual

Telephone #:

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution:

George Washington U

Assurance number:

A3205Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Temp in rat room 29.9°, monitoring system failedSpecies involved: Rats

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 9

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Get new monitoring

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____