



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 2, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3100-01 [OLAW Case 1K]

Nancy R. Lewis, CRA, CIP  
Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance  
Institutional Official, State University of New York  
Binghamton University  
Office of Research Compliance, Division of Research  
P.O. Box 6000,  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

Dear Ms. Lewis,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated June 17, 2019 regarding a reportable incident at your institution. This is a final report that was not preceded by a preliminary report to this office.

According to the information provided, our office understands that one mouse on a PHS funded activity escaped during approved study procedures in April 9, 2019. Despite efforts to recapture the mouse, it eluded recapture and its carcass was found by a postdoctoral student approximately two to three days later. It is surmised that the mouse, due to its small size, was able to slip out of a testing cubicle and into the attached food hopper, from which it was able to jump to the floor and escape.

The corrective measures involved lab member training focusing on handling of the strain of mouse in question, since it is unusually small relative to other strains. Training on prompt communication was also initiated, so that LAR staff could assist with recovery efforts. The IACUC Chair and LAR director are also evaluating communication and reporting SOPs in light of this incident.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely;

(b) (6)

cc: IACUC Contact

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 20892-7982

June 17, 2019

Dear Director,

Binghamton University, in accordance with **PHS Assurance # D16-00063** and PHS Policy IV.F3, is reporting an incident of noncompliance associated with NIH funding (P50 DA039841-subaward). This incident involved a mouse whose health and well-being was jeopardized.

On April 9, 2019, one (1) CAST/EiJ mouse escaped from a Lab Technician while performing approved study procedures (Protocol 802-18). Although every effort was made to re-capture the mouse, it was not immediately found. The Binghamton University Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) staff was notified of the incident approximately 3.5 hours after the mouse escaped. The room was secured and food was provided as the search continued. Approximately 2-3 days after the mouse's disappearance, a carcass was found in the room by the postdoctoral researcher assigned to this lab and it was determined to be that of the missing mouse.

This particular strain of mice is very small and can be difficult to handle. Although the PI had modified the lab's testing apparatus in ways that reduced the possibility of escape, this mouse was particularly small and slipped out of his testing cubicle into an attached food hopper. It is from this hopper that he jumped to the floor and escaped.

In an effort to prevent a recurrence, lab members will be retrained on special handling for this strain and prompt reporting. In order for communications to be more effective, the Principal Investigator and the lab members will be directed to immediately notify the LAR staff when an animal is lost to support the recovery effort. The Principal Investigator will be instructed to notify the IACUC Chair as soon as possible of such an occurrence. In addition, the IACUC Chair and LAR Director will review current SOPs related to communications and reporting to ensure necessary and effective processes are delineated and distributed to all Principal Investigators.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lewis  
Digitally signed by Nancy  
Lewis  
Date: 2019.06.19 08:02:19  
-04'00'

Nancy L. Lewis

cc: Dr. C. Bishop, IAUC Chair  
K. Kal-Downs, DVM, Attending Veterinarian/LAR Director

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:57 AM  
**To:** Nancy L Lewis; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Binghamton University-noncompliance report

Thank you for providing this report. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
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:** Nancy L Lewis [mailto:nlewis@binghamton.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019 8:11 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Binghamton University-noncompliance report

Director,

Binghamton University, in accordance with **PHS Assurance #D16-00063** and PHS Policy IV.F3, is reporting an incident of noncompliance associated with an NIH NIDA award (P50 DA039841-subaward) and mitigations to address the disclosed incident.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Nancy Lewis, CRA, CIP  
Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance  
Binghamton University

Ph. (b) (6)

Fax. (b) (6)

[nlewis@binghamton.edu](mailto:nlewis@binghamton.edu)

<https://www.binghamton.edu/research/compliance/>