



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) 480-3387

April 14, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3377-01 [OLAW Case 6X]

Dr. David P. Norton
Vice President for Research
University of Florida
(b) (4) Grinter Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500

Dear Dr. Norton,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 6, 2020 letter reporting an adverse event within the animal care and use program at the University of Florida. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on January 15, 2020 it was self-reported that 25 mice were injected subcutaneously with AAV-infected HepaRG cells resulting in subcutaneous tumors. The injections were not approved and the tumors were not expected. All animals were euthanized. The study is PHS funded.

Corrective and preventive actions included the PI submitting a protocol amendment to add the subcutaneous injection of the cells. Any data from the unapproved experiment will not be used. The PI is to submit to the IACUC a plan to prevent protocol non-compliance.

OLAW believes that the actions taken by the University of Florida are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals for institutional self-monitoring and self-reporting. It is understood that the funding component has been informed of the non-compliance. OLAW appreciates being informed of this issue and finds no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse

-S
Date: 2020.04.14 09:32:04 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



Office of the Vice President for Research

223 Grinter Hall
PO Box 115500
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500
352-392-1582

March 6, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The University of Florida, in accordance with Assurance D16-00244 (A3377-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of noncompliance regarding a protocol deviation resulting in adverse effects to animals.

On January 15, 2020 it was self-reported to the IACUC that 25 mice were injected with AAV-infected HepaRG cells subcutaneously. These injections resulted in subcutaneous growths/tumors. AAV injections are on the approved protocol, however they are approved as intrahepatic injection via surgical incision. In addition, subcutaneous tumors are not approved on the protocol nor were the cells injected expected to produce tumors. The tumors were likely a result of a contamination issue. All mice involved in the incident have been euthanized.

The PI provided the following corrective actions along with the self-report:

1. Submit a self-report to the leadership of the IACUC.
2. Euthanize all 25 mice involved with the non-compliance.
3. Submit a modification to the IACUC protocol to request the approval of experiments involving S.Q. injections of HepaRG cells in NSG mice.

In response to the self-report the following corrective actions were implemented:

4. The IACUC chair confirmed with the laboratory that no data should be used from these animals.

The IACUC full committee voted on January 21, 2020 that this incident was a non-compliance and was reportable through the IO to regulatory agencies. In addition to the above corrective actions the IACUC has asked the PI to develop procedures to ensure future protocol deviations will not occur and submit this plan to the IACUC office within 2 weeks.

This study is supported by the following grant:

- NIH NIAID R21AI131328: AAV2 and hepatocellular carcinoma

The NIH funding components have been notified of the noncompliance.

The Foundation for The Gator Nation

An Equal Opportunity Institution

Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 08/24/2020

Retrieved from Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO)

Re: NIH NIAID R21AI131328
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The University of Florida is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Daniel R. Brown, Ph.D., IACUC Chair.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, 

(b) (6)

David Norton, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Institutional Official

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 7:11 AM
To: Mahoney, Michael P
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report of noncompliance (00700468)

Thank you for this report, Dr. Mahoney. We will send a response soon.
Axel Wolff

From: Mahoney, Michael P <mmahoney@ufl.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:59 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Gratton, Shaun (NIH/NIAID) [E] <shaun.gratton@nih.gov>; Natarajan, Ramya (NIH/NIAID) [E] <natarajanr@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Report of noncompliance (00700468)

I am sending the attached report of noncompliance from the University of Florida. UF did not send a preliminary report for this event.

The protocol involved in this noncompliance is funded by NIH and I have cc'd the applicable Program Officials on this email.

Please acknowledge receipt and let me know if you have any issues.

-Michael

Michael Mahoney
Director of Research Operations and Services
University of Florida | UF Research | PO Box 115500
Grinter (b) (4) PH: (b) (6) | <http://research.ufl.edu>