



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

May 26, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3270-01 [OLAW Case 1M]

Dr. Laurie Locascio  
Vice President for Research  
University of Maryland – College Park  
(b) (4) Lee Building – 7809 Regents Drive  
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dr. Locascio,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 14, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Maryland – College Park. We received the initial report via a phone call on April 6, 2020. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on December 26, 2019 it was reported that cichlid fish, comprising approximately ten percent of the population in a PI-operated facility, were found dead. Necropsy results were suggestive of gas bubble disease, which may have resulted from a tubing component of the circulation system becoming dislodged, allowing air into the main system. This work was partially supported by PHS funding.

Corrective actions: The pumps were turned off overnight and then restarted, and the tubing was replaced. All laboratory personnel were retrained regarding the procedures for cleaning and maintaining tank systems such that circulation components are not disrupted. No further animal deaths have been noted since these measures were completed.

The consideration of this matter by the University of Maryland – College Park was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to correct and prevent recurrence of the issue were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office at this time.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse -S**

Digitally signed by Brent C.  
Morse -S  
Date: 2020.05.26 08:49:25 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



## DIVISION OF RESEARCH

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

A3270-1M  
2133 Lee Building  
College Park, Maryland 20742-5125  
301.405.4175 TEL

May 14, 2020

Dr. Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: Animal Welfare Assurance Number: D16-00172 (A3270-01)

Dear Dr. Morse:

The University of Maryland, College Park, has finalized an issue that was previously self-reported to OLAW on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. On December 26, 2019, a report was made to the veterinary staff regarding the death of cichlid fish comprising approximately ten percent of the population in a PI-operated facility. Necropsy results were suggestive of gas bubble disease, which may have resulted from a tubing component of the circulation system becoming dislodged, allowing air into the main system. This adverse event was considered at the next regularly scheduled UMD IACUC on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and was deemed reportable per NOT-OD-05-034 "b) any serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide [for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals]*." This work was partially supported by PHS award 5R01EY024941.

**Corrective actions:** As indicated, the animals were necropsied to determine cause of death. To address the possibility of gas bubble disease, the pumps were turned off overnight and then restarted, and the tubing was replaced. All laboratory personnel were retrained regarding the procedures for cleaning and maintaining tank systems such that circulation components are not disrupted. No further animal deaths have been noted since these measures were completed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Laurie E. Locascio  
Vice President for Research and  
Institutional Official

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:10 AM  
**To:** Pamela Jean Lanford  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: UMD D16-00172

Thank you for this report, Dr. Lanford. We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** Pamela Jean Lanford <planford@umd.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2020 10:49 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Laurie Ellen Locascio <lcl@umd.edu>; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** UMD D16-00172

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find attached a letter from the University of Maryland, College Park Institutional Official, Dr. Laurie Locascio, finalizing an animal care issue previously self-reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare on April 6th, 2020.

Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Pam Lanford

Pamela Lanford PhD, MS, CPIA  
Director of Animal Research Support & Administrator, IACUC  
Past Chair, University Senate  
(b) (4) James Clark Hall  
8278 Paint Branch Drive  
University of Maryland  
College Park, MD 20742  
t: (b) (6)  
pronouns: she/her/hers



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Brent

Date: 4/1/2020

Time: Voicemail

Name of Person reporting: Pam Lansford, PhD

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Univ. of Maryland – College Park

Assurance number: A3270

Did incident involve PHS funded activity?

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? 145 fish dead from gas bubble disease. Tubing loose or dislodged allowing air into the system.

Species involved: zebra fish

Personnel involved: PI

Dates and times: 12/26/2019

Animal deaths: yes

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

Tubing replaced and retrained on checking tubing.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

ASAP

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Case #