



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

May 2, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3237-01 (OLAW Case 2V)

Ms. Steffani Webb  
Vice Chancellor for Administration  
Institutional Official  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
3901 Rainbow Road, MS 2015  
Kansas City, KS 66160

Dear Ms. Webb,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 26, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Kansas Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that rat surgery was not being conducted aseptically and instruments were not properly sterilized. The rats reportedly recovered without problem.

The corrective actions consisted of the veterinary staff retraining the laboratory staff on aseptic technique and instrument sterilization. Animal users will be reminded about maintaining compliance at various training venues.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



April 26, 2019

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

**Regarding:** University of Kansas Medical Center -- Assurance #A3237-01

**Research Project:** Reproduction Research: Rat Models  
IACUC Number: 2016-2335

**Funding Agency:** NIH-NICHD R01-HD020676

Dear Dr. Wolff:

In accordance with PHS Policy IV.F.3, the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is reporting a deviation from the provisions of the *Guide* and our institutional policies and SOPs.

Routine Post-Approval Monitoring of rat vasectomy procedures was performed on February 2, 2019. The post-doctoral fellow performing the procedure demonstrated adept surgical skills; however, several breaks in aseptic technique and instrument sterilization were noted as deviations from our institutional SOP on rodent surgery. Importantly, a review of post-operative records showed that all rats recovered fully, and there have not been prior reports of post-surgical complications from this lab.

**Specific Corrective Action:**

After consulting with the Post-Approval Monitor and reviewing pertinent institutional SOPs, the PI agreed that laboratory surgical staff will meet with Laboratory Animal Resources (LAR) veterinary staff to review instrument sterilization procedures and receive additional aseptic technique training on March 29, 2019.

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM  
April 26, 2019  
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**IACUC and RABS Action:**

This information was presented to the convened IACUC on February 19, 2019. The IACUC determined that PI-initiated retraining as suggested by the PAM adequately addressed the issues in a proactive manner. In addition, the IACUC unanimously voted to report this incident based on OLAW Guidance NOT-OD-05-034. This information is also being provided to the Association for the Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC).

The IACUC and RABS office will continue to stress the importance of maintaining compliance with the provisions of the *Guide* and our institutional policies and SOPs. The issue of aseptic technique in rodent survival surgeries is a main component of LAR-provided surgical training. Additional avenues of training include research department meetings, Post-Approval Monitoring reviews and/or additional communications through quarterly newsletters. If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Steffani Webb  
Vice Chancellor for Administration

cc:

(b) (6)

Nathan Culley, DVM, DACLAM, Chair, IACUC  
Douglas Brandt, DVM, Executive Director, Laboratory Animal Sciences, Attending  
Veterinarian

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** Nathan Culley; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Incident Reports for the University of Kansas Medical Center A3237-01

Thank you for these reports Dr. Culley. We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

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**From:** Nathan Culley [mailto:[nculley@kumc.edu](mailto:nculley@kumc.edu)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 11:11 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <[olawdco@od.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** Incident Reports for the University of Kansas Medical Center A3237-01

Dr. Wolff,

Please find attached, two (2) animal welfare compliance report letters from the University of Kansas Medical Center (A3237-01). Please let me know if you have any further questions regarding the reports.

Regards,

Nathan C Culley, DVM, DACLAM  
IACUC Chair  
Executive Director, Regulatory Affairs for Biological Sciences  
University of Kansas Medical Center  
[nculley@kumc.edu](mailto:nculley@kumc.edu)  
(b) (6)