



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

December 20, 2016

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3310-01 [OLAW Case 1H]

Dr. Philip R. Cunningham  
Assistant Vice President for Research  
Wayne State University  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
5057 Woodward Avenue, Suite [REDACTED]  
Detroit, MI 48201

Dear Dr. Cunningham,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 19, 2016 letter reporting two serious deviations from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Wayne State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one mouse died after becoming entrapped between the cage lid and food hopper and another mouse died under the edge of an igloo after the cage top was closed. The incidents were due to human error.

The corrective action consisted of counseling the animal care and research staff that handle the cages to be careful when replacing lids on cages. Signs have been posted in the animal areas as reminders to check cages before placing them on the rack.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of the 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.  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair



Philip R. Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Vice President for Research  
Wayne State University  
5057 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2317  
Detroit, MI 48202

(313) 577-9064  
philc@wayne.edu

December 19, 2016

**Animal Welfare Assurance Number: A3310-01**

Axel V. Wolff, MS, 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 20892-7982  
olawdco@mail.nih.gov

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am writing to report two serious incidences that occurred involving the death of two mice. One instance involved the death of a mouse that was trapped between a static cage lid and the wire food hopper; the second instance involved a mouse that appeared to have been under the edge of a plastic igloo when the cage top was closed. The cages belonged to different investigators and different DLAR technicians serviced the rooms. These instances appear to be due to human error.

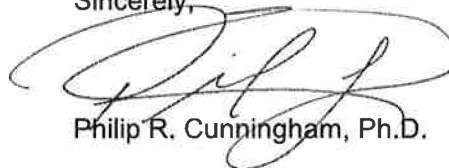
**Corrective actions**

To prevent recurrence of similar incidents, the entire DLAR staff was informed of the issues and reminded to pay special attention when replacing lids on cages. The laboratory personnel who may have handled these cages have been informed and also reminded of the necessity to check prior to replacing lids. In addition, signs have been placed in DLAR facilities reminding all staff to double check caging prior to placing them back onto racks or shelving units.

The incident was reported as an adverse event at the convened meeting of the IACUC on November 16, 2016. The Committee determined that it represented a reportable event and agreed with the proposed corrective and preventive actions, which have since been implemented.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Philip R. Cunningham, Ph.D.

c.c.

Secondary Individual

Global Director, AAALAC International, [accredit@AAALAC.org](mailto:accredit@AAALAC.org)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 20, 2016 8:25 AM  
**To:** 'Philip Cunningham'  
**Subject:** RE: WSU A3310-01 IACUC Incident Report

Thank you for this report, Dr. Cunningham. I will respond shortly.

Axel Wolff, M.S. , D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
OLAW

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**From:** Philip Cunningham [mailto:philc@wayne.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 4:51 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** accredit@AAALAC.org  
**Subject:** WSU A3310-01 IACUC Incident Report

Please see the attached incident report. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,  
Phil

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Philip R. Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President  
Research Integrity  
Wayne State University  
5057 Woodward Avenue, Room #  
Detroit, MI 48202

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