



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

March 22, 2017

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

Dr. Philip R. Cunningham  
Assistant Vice President for Research  
Wayne State University  
Office of the Vice President for Research  
5057 Woodward Avenue, Room #  
Detroit, MI 48201

Dear Dr. Cunningham,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 21, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Wayne State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one mouse died and one was dehydrated after being left on top of the food in the feeder of a cage on a ventilated rack. A post-doctoral fellow had manipulated the mice and failed to return them to the cage.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of treating the surviving mouse which recovered. The individual responsible and the animal care staff were counseled on using care when returning mice to cages and placing cages on the racks.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate having been informed about this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

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

March 21, 2017

**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  
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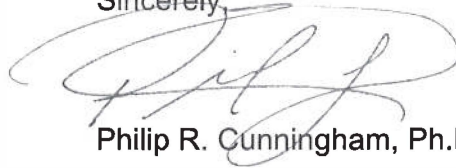
RE: Adverse event

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am writing to report an adverse event that occurred on February 15, 2017 that resulted in the death of a mouse in one of the vivaria at Wayne State University (WSU). During a scheduled cage change on a ventilated rack, a Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) staff found 2 mice that were present on top of the food in the wire feeder portion of the cage. One of the mice was dehydrated and the other was dead and had been partially cannibalized. The dehydrated mouse was promptly treated and recovered normally. A necropsy of the dead mouse revealed minimal fat stores and an absence of food in the digestive tract. After contacting the PI it was determined that the last handling of the cage had occurred ~72 hours prior to identifying the problem when laboratory personnel had been working with the cage. The area above the wire bar is not visible on routine examination during health checks and, while food levels can be evaluated easily, seeing animals in this location is extremely difficult without removal of the cage from the rack. This adverse event was presented and discussed at a convened IACUC meeting on February 22, 2017.

Following notification of this event, the PI responded immediately and determined that the mice likely had not been returned to the cage following manipulation. The individual who handled the mice in question is an experienced post-doc and the failure to return the mice to the cage was unintentional. The PI expressed regret and discussed the event with the lab member to ensure that this kind of event does not reoccur in the future. In addition, this event was discussed with DLAR staff as a reminder to everyone to exercise caution and attention when returning caging to the racks after animal handling.

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:** Wednesday, March 22, 2017 7:51 AM  
**To:** 'Philip Cunningham'  
**Subject:** RE: Adverse event involving food hopper

Thank you for this report. We will respond soon.  
Axel Wolff

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**From:** Philip Cunningham [mailto:philc@wayne.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** International Aaalac <accredit@aaalac.org>  
**Subject:** Adverse event involving food hopper

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Please see the attached report of an Adverse Event.

Please contact me if you would like additional information.

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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