



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

August 28, 2017

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

Dr. Philip R. Cunningham  
Associate 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 August 24, 2017 letter reporting an adverse event involving a rabbit at Wayne State University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a rabbit escaped its elevated cage, fell to the floor, and broke its back. The spring door latch was not completely engaged although it appeared closed, which could occur for all cages of this type.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of euthanizing the rabbit. All animal care technicians using these cages were retrained to ensure that latches are securely closed, a secondary closure system was applied to the doors, and the cage manufacturer was notified about the problem.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this 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.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair  
Elizabeth Goldentyer, D.V.M., Eastern Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-AC



Philip R. Cunningham, Ph.D.  
Associate Vice President for Research  
Wayne State University  
5057 Woodward Avenue, Suite 6305  
Detroit, MI 48202

(313) 577-9064  
philc@wayne.edu

August 24, 2017

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

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
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Bethesda, MD 20892-7982  
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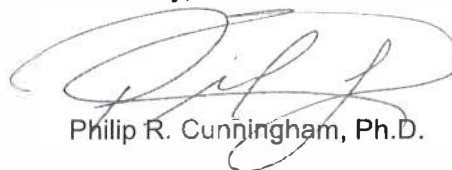
RE: Adverse event  
NIH Grant: 1 R01 NS081936-01A1 "Tetrahydrobiopterin in Fetal Hypoxic Brain Injury"

Dear Dr. Morse,

I am writing to report an adverse event that occurred on July 12, 2017 that resulted in injury to a rabbit. During the routine morning health check a pregnant adult rabbit was found on the floor of the animal housing room. The cage door was open and the doe appeared to have jumped out from a height of approximately 60 inches above the floor. Though alert with no obvious evidence of pain, the animal had signs of significant spinal injury resulting in paresis of both hindlimbs. Due to the poor prognosis, the animal was humanely euthanized that morning. The cage door was inspected and found to be properly functioning; however, it was determined that the spring loaded latch on the door can appear closed without being completely engaged. This was not limited to a single defective door and appears to be a potential issue with the caging system. It is believed that the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) technician who last accessed the cage on July 11 did not fully engage the latch or confirm that the door was secure, resulting in the door opening sometime overnight.

Retraining of all DLAR technicians using this type of rabbit caging was conducted with emphasis on manually ensuring that latches are positively engaged prior to leaving a room. In addition, a secondary securement of the cage door has been implemented that prevents the door from opening in the event of latch failure. The cage manufacturer has also been contacted and made aware of the additional care needed with this type of latch. These steps will prevent another occurrence of this type of incident in the future.

Sincerely,



Philip R. Cunningham, Ph.D.

c.c. Dr. Jim Koenig, Program Official, jim.koenig@nih.gov  
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:** Friday, August 25, 2017 8:45 AM  
**To:** 'Philip Cunningham'  
**Subject:** RE: Adverse event report

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

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

**From:** Philip Cunningham [mailto:philc@wayne.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Koenig, Jim (NIH/NINDS) [E] <jim.koenig@nih.gov>; International Aaalac <accredit@aaalac.org>; ndary Indiv  
ndary Indi@wayne.edu>; Secondary Individual@wayne.edu>; Secondary Individual@wayne.edu>  
**Subject:** Adverse event report

Please see the attached report of an adverse event involving a rabbit. Please contact me if you have any questions.

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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