



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

April 10, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 8W]

Mr. George A. Huber
Vice Chancellor for Research Conduct and Compliance
University of Pittsburgh
(b) (4) Hieber Building
3500 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Mr. Huber,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 3, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: the conduct of animal-related activities without appropriate IACUC review and approval and animals with no access to water. The final report states that the incident was reviewed at the February 17, 2020 IACUC meeting. The incident involved 6 cages of mice found to be without access to water. Investigative results revealed the mice were being water restricted overnight, which was not included on the protocol. The IACUC reviewed and accepted the investigator's corrective actions as the following:

- The investigator submitted an IACUC modification that outlines the experimental rationale and duration of water restriction.
- The investigator will review the IACUC protocol with all members of the lab before any further animal work is carried out, and with any students or new members of the lab as part of their orientation.
- The investigator will require all personnel to double check IACUC protocols before ordering any animals for future experiments.

The IACUC levied the following sanctions:

- The investigator was reminded that data collected from studies involving off-protocol work represents work not approved by the IACUC and cannot be used in public presentations or publications without disclosing the lack of IACUC approval. The investigator was also informed that NIH funds cannot be used to pay for animal-related charges associated with off-protocol work.

It is noted that the research is supported by PHS funds. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Pittsburgh has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM
Veterinary Medical Officer
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



George A. Huber, JD, MSIE, MSSM
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
Professor of Health Policy and Management

A3187-8W

Office of Research Protections

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3500 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-624-2202
ghuber@pitt.edu
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April 3, 2020

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh's Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to advise your office of a reportable incident¹ that was reviewed by the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at its February 17, 2020 meeting.

Six cages of mice assigned to the investigator's protocol were found to be without access to water. Upon further investigation, the mice were being water restricted overnight, which was not included on the protocol.

The University of Pittsburgh IACUC reviewed and accepted the investigator's corrective action plan (CAP), which consisted of the following item:

1. The investigator submitted an IACUC modification that outlines the experimental rationale and duration of water restriction.
2. The investigator will review the IACUC protocol with all members of the lab before any further animal work is carried out, and with any students or new members of the lab as part of their orientation.
3. The investigator will require all personnel to double check IACUC protocols before ordering any animals for future experiments.

The investigator's research is supported by the following NIH grant:

POPULATION GENOMIC ANALYSIS OF GUT MICROBIAL COLONIZATION IN
PREMATURE INFANTS (1R01AI092531-01)

¹ PHS Policies IV.B.7 and IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
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The IACUC has levied the following sanctions:

1. The investigator was reminded that data collected from studies involving off-protocol work represents work not approved by the IACUC and cannot be used in public presentations or publications without disclosing the lack of IACUC approval. Additionally, the investigator was informed that NIH funds cannot be used to pay for animal-related charges associated with off-protocol work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

George A. Huber

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 7:40 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable Event Notice

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 11:21 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Reportable Event Notice

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of George A. Huber, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you.

(b) (6)