



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

March 19, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3288-01 (OLAW Case X)

Ms. Lynn Chronister
Vice President for Research and
Economic Development
University of South Alabama
307 University Blvd., N AD 200
Mobile, Alabama 36688

Dear Ms. Chronister,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 7, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of South Alabama, following up on an initial telephone report on January 30, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a research staffer euthanized a mouse using a method which was not in accordance with the provisions of the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of the Attending Veterinarian (AV) removing the individual's animal use privileges and entry permission into the vivarium. The AV checked the other animals and found them to be in good condition. Following investigation and discussion among senior university officials, the individual's position at the institution was terminated. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee will re-evaluate the training curriculum.

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.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

March 7, 2019

Axel Wolff, DVM, MS
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written report of a non-compliance that occurred at the University of South Alabama (Assurance A3288-01) on January 29, 2019. The species is *mouse*.

On January 29, 2019 at 7:15am, a research staff member was observed euthanizing a mouse, belonging to a colleague, using a method which was not consistent with the *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*. The Attending Veterinarian utilized her *designated program authority* to remove the individual from the vivarium and prevent his re-entry into the vivarium through deactivation of his FOB. Other study animals were immediately checked by the Attending Veterinarian and were in good condition. The Attending Veterinarian notified the Vice Chair of the IACUC by phone within thirty-minutes of the incident. She then sent an email notification to me, the IACUC Chair, and the investigator.

Later that morning, I met with the Attending Veterinarian, the IACUC Chair, the Research Compliance Coordinator, and campus police. It was determined at that meeting that the individual did not pose any imminent threat to the staff or animals in the vivarium as long as his FOB remained inactivated. Campus police notified the individual that he was not permitted on campus while an investigation was pending.

The IACUC Chair appointed a subcommittee to investigate the incident further. The subcommittee membership included the Chair, Vice Chair, and an additional IACUC member. At noon on January 29, 2019, the subcommittee discussed the incident with the Attending Veterinarian and Research Compliance Coordinator. Findings were conveyed to me, the Senior Associate Dean of the College of Medicine, and the Co-Director of the College of Medicine's Office of Research Education and Training. As a result of the findings of the IACUC subcommittee, the research staff member who performed the inappropriate euthanasia on a mouse belonging to a colleague had his "visiting scholar" status revoked by the University of South Alabama, nonimmigrant visa revoked, and was banned from campus permanently. Campus police delivered the *Notice of Termination* letter to the individual at his residence in the afternoon of January 29, 2019.

An initial phone report was made to Dr. Gopee by the Attending Veterinarian and the Research Compliance Coordinator on January 30, 2019. The IACUC discussed this non-compliance at the meeting on February 28, 2019. At this meeting, the IACUC voted that the corrective action taken (immediate removal of the individual from the vivarium during the incident to prevent harm to additional animals, IACUC subcommittee meeting on the day of the incident, and subsequent termination and banning from campus of the "visiting scholar") was sufficient. The IACUC discussed that while an event like this could not be anticipated, the IACUC will re-evaluate the training curriculum during the next semi-annual program review.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
AD 240 | 307 University Blvd. North | Mobile, Alabama 36688
TEL: 251-460-6863 | FAX: 251-460-7955 | jchaplin@southalabama.edu

Because no active IACUC protocols were suspended and no grant funds were affected, no funding agency was notified. The mouse that was inappropriately euthanized was supported by R01NS102495. The University of South Alabama is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)


Lynne Chronister,
Vice President for Research and Economic Development
Institutional Official

CC Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care
International (AAALAC, International)
Director of the Office of Research, Education, and Training
Michele Schuler, DVM, PhD, Attending Veterinarian
Research Compliance Coordinator
Senior Associate Dean of the College of Medicine
University of South Alabama IACUC

Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:31 PM
To: 'Michele Schuler'; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6); Lynne Chronister; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: non-compliance final report, A3288-01

Thank you for this final report Dr. Schuler. We will send an official response soon.

Best Regards,
Neera

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DABT, DACLAM
Acting Director, Division of Policy and Education
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, NIH
6700B Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910
Phone (301) 594-3657
gopeenv@od.nih.gov

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From: Michele Schuler <mschuler@southalabama.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2019 5:16 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E] <neera.gopee@nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6); Lynne Chronister <lchronister@southalabama.edu>; (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: non-compliance final report, A3288-01

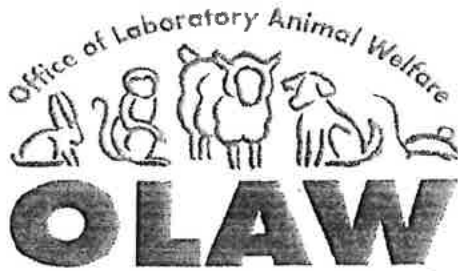
Good afternoon,

Please find the attached Final Report of an incident which occurred at the University of South Alabama, College of Medicine.

Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

thank you.

--
Michele Schuler, DVM, PhD
Director, University Biologic Resources
Associate Professor
Departments of Comparative Medicine and Microbiology
University of South Alabama
TEL (b) (6)
FAX (b) (6)
mschuler@southalabama.edu



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Neera Gopee

Date: 1-30-19

Time: 9:40am

Name of Person reporting: Michelle Schuler

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: University of South AlabamaAssurance number: A3288-01Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Inappropriate euthanasia of 1 mouse noncompliant with
AAALAC Guidelines

Species involved: mouse

Personnel involved: Post doc

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Termination of employment.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____