



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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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

September 10, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3410-01 (OLAW Case 7D)
Ref: ACR#: 6-19-1

Dr. Terry Magnuson
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Campus Box 4000, (b) (4) South Building
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-4000

Dear Dr. Magnuson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 3, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, following up on an initial telephone report on July 2, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse carcass was found in a cage following autoclaving. It was not clear whether the mouse had been alive or dead before the cage was placed in the autoclave, but husbandry staff thought it was dead.

The corrective actions consisted of reviewing with the technician institutional policies which state that cages must be carefully checked before autoclaving, that a second check must be conducted, and that this should be documented in the log. Husbandry staff will also be retrained on the standard operating procedures on cage checking and autoclaving.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to address 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
Director of Animal Care and Use
IACUC Training & Compliance Manager



IACUC Animal Concern Report (ACR)

PHS Assurance #: D16-00256 (A3410-01)

Part I of this report serves to record preliminary information as it was presented to the Animal Concern Subcommittee (ACS) and includes ACS recommendations to the IACUC. Part II contains the IACUC's final recommendation to the Institutional Official (IO). This report is not final until Part II is signed and dated by the IO.

Acronyms:

Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM)
Principal Investigator (PI)
Office of Animal Care and Use (OACU)
Laboratory Animal Coordinator (LAC)

Training and Compliance Coordinator (TCC)
Training and Compliance Team (T&C)
Training and Compliance Manager (TCM)
Animal Concern Subcommittee (ACS)

ACR#: 6-19-1

NIH Grant #: N/A

Reported by: DCM self-report

Recorded by: TCM

Verbal: ☐

Written: ☒

Complainant wishes to remain anonymous: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Part I: Animal Concern Subcommittee (ACS) Report

- 1) Concern/Allegation:** DCM reported that a mouse had been found in a cage that had been processed through the autoclave.
- 2) Summary of Events:** DCM provided a self-report to the IACUC indicating that DCM staff had allowed a cage containing an animal carcass (mouse) to be autoclaved. The self-report indicates several reasons that DCM believes the animal was most likely dead prior to autoclaving, although it was not possible to determine conclusively whether the animal was alive or dead prior to autoclaving.
- 3) DCM Self Report:** On June 19, 2019, it was reported that a mouse was found in a cage that had been processed in a DCM autoclave. After a thorough investigation by DCM management, the following was determined: A cage had been received in the "dirty side" of the cage wash room containing a mouse carcass buried in an excess of brown crinkle paper bedding. The cage was identified as being handled by a DCM research technician after they had done a change out in the room. The buried mouse was not visible to the technician and was missed during the two required cage checks by DCM staff. The method in which the technician checked the cages and the way in which the mouse carcass was buried was a strong indication that the mouse was deceased prior to the cage entering the autoclave.

DCM has implemented the following actions to prevent future occurrences: 1) Review the policy with the DCM technician and emphasize the policy of thoroughly checking cages before they enter the autoclave as well as verifying the second check and ensuring the log is filled out. 2) Retraining on the SOP and autoclave check forms at the next area meeting.

4) Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and ACS Recommendations:



OFFICE OF ANIMAL CARE AND USE

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- a) **Standards:** (Cite regulation, standard, IACUC policy): DCM SOP states that 2 individuals must check cages prior to autoclaving.
- b) **Findings of Fact:** An animal carcass was found in a cage following autoclave processing. It was not possible to determine whether the animal was alive or dead prior to autoclave processing.
- c) **Subcommittee Recommendations:** OACU reported this incident to the ACS on 6/28/19. DCM investigated the issue of the autoclaved carcass and provided proposed actions to be taken to prevent future occurrences.

All ACS members (except those excluded for conflict of interest) agreed that DCM's proposed actions were satisfactory, no sanctions were warranted, and that it should be reported to OLAW. Because the source of the animal is unknown, NIH fund status is unknown.

The subcommittee recommendations along with DCM's proposed actions was presented to the IACUC at the July 12, 2019 meeting.

- 5) **Required Report to OLAW:** ☒ Yes ☐ No
If Yes: Verbally Reported to OLAW by: TCM Date: 7/2/2019 Time: 10:45am to Dr. Wolff

Part II: IACUC Conclusion and Report to Institutional Official

- 1) **IACUC Meeting Date and Closure:** The IACUC met on July 12, 2019 and voted to accept the ACS recommendations.

- 2) **Additional Requirement(s):** N/A

- 3) **IACUC Vote:**
- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Reportable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Not Reportable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unanimous | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Minority Opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Closed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pending | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NIH Reimbursement Required | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA |

Terry Magnuson, Ph.D.
Institutional Official

(b) (6)

Signature

Date

CC:
Principal Investigator
OACU Training and Compliance Coordinators and Director
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
Office of University Counsel
IACUC Chair

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 6:28 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: ACR 6-19-1 final report

Hello (b) (6)

Thank you for this introduction and staff updates. I have received your report and will send a response shortly. Please convey my congratulations to (b) (6) on her job change. Feel free to contact me with new reports as well as any questions.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 10:57 AM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: ACR 6-19-1 final report

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I'm one of the new Training and Compliance Coordinators in the UNC-Chapel Hill Office of Animal Care and Use. (b) (6) recently moved to a UNC Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) Training Manager position. As a result, I'll be the main point person for ACRs, and I look forward to working with you. (b) (6) is still with our office and is also available to receive any of your questions or input.

The IACUC met on July 12, 2019 and reviewed Animal Concern 6-19-1. The IACUC voted to accept the subcommittee's recommendations and close this case. A copy of the Final report for this ACR is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: aw

Date: 7/2/19

Time: 11:45

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #: (b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Name of Institution: Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill

Assurance number: A3410

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? unknown

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

mouse went through autoclave, didn't do double check

Species involved: Mouse

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

6-19-1 Retrain all staff

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #