



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

October 26, 2018

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

Dr. Lynn U. Chronister  
Vice President for Research and Economic Development  
University of South Alabama  
307 University Boulevard, N-AD 200  
Mobile, AL 36688

Dear Dr. Chronister,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your October 22, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event at the University of South Alabama, following up on an initial September 4, 2018 telephone notification. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that an animal housing room flooded due to a water-pipe burst in an overhead laboratory which resulted in the demise of six mice. All wet cages were changed and several hypothermic mice were appropriately treated and recovered.

The corrective action consisted of contracting a mechanical engineer to assess the integrity of the plumbing in the Medical Sciences Building.

The establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of South Alabama are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard. We appreciate having been informed about this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

October 22, 2018

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 an adverse event that occurred at the University of South Alabama (Assurance **A3288-01**) on September 2, 2018. The species is *mouse*.

A water-pipe burst in a laboratory on the second floor (above the vivarium) and an animal room flooded. The animal care technician reported for work Sunday morning at 06:15 am and immediately triaged affected cages. She then called the on-call supervisor and Attending Veterinarian, both of whom arrived within thirty minutes. In total, six mice drowned. Several other animals were treated for hypothermia but survived. All wet cages were changed. The Attending Veterinarian notified me, the investigator, and the IACUC Chair on that same day via email.

A phone report was made to Dr. Gopee by the Attending Veterinarian on September 4, 2018. The IACUC discussed this adverse event at the meeting on September 13, 2018. While an event like this could not be anticipated, the IACUC requested that Central Utilities have the plumbing in areas above the vivarium checked for corrosion/wear. The Attending Veterinarian and the Associate Vice President, Facilities Management met on September 17, 2018. The Research Compliance Coordinator was in attendance. It was agreed that a mechanical engineer would be contracted to evaluate the integrity of the plumbing in the Medical Sciences Building. The IACUC was informed of this plan at the meeting on October 19, 2018.

Because no active IACUC protocols were suspended and no grant funds were affected, no funding agency was notified. 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)  
Michele Schuler, DVM, PhD, Attending Veterinarian  
Research Compliance Coordinator  
University of South Alabama IACUC

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](mailto:jchaplin@southalabama.edu)

## Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** Gopee, Neera (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** 'Michele Schuler'  
**Subject:** RE: adverse event 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, DACLAM, DABT  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

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**From:** Michele Schuler [mailto:mschuler@southalabama.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:06 AM  
**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)  
**Subject:** adverse event final report, A3288-01

Good morning,

Please find the attached Final Report of an adverse event 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](mailto:mschuler@southalabama.edu)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Neena Gopee

Date: 9-4-18

Time: 2:32pm

Name of Person reporting: Michelle Schuler

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: University of South Alabama

Assurance number: A 3288-01

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

R01NS102495

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

Water line broke on 2nd floor and 6 mice drowned in the drain on the 1st floor.

Species involved: mouse

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 6

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_