



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

August 29, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3413-01 [OLAW Case 2G]

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Academic Officer  
University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston  
7000 Fannin St., UCT-1732  
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 20, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on July 12, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on June 6, 2019 it was reported that seven mice had died or been euthanized due to administration of acetaminophen on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Although acetaminophen administration at the given dose was allowed per the protocol, the strains of these seven mice (3 COX2-Eos-cre and 4 iPHIL) should not have been administered the drug. The involved animal activity was funded by the PHS.

Corrective and preventive actions included the approval of a protocol amendment allowing acetaminophen administration to these specific strains at a lower dose and with increased monitoring frequency and duration post-administration. Also, laboratory personnel were reminded to review the protocol prior to the start of experiments in general and the experiments involving acetaminophen specifically. No significant costs related to this incident were identified.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW agrees that appropriate corrective and preventive actions were taken subsequent to the incident. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Brent C. Morse, DVM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

August 20, 2019

Brent Morse, D.V.M., DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

**Re: Assurance A3413-01**

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) provides this report of a protocol deviation resulting in clinical consequences and deaths to animals. In accordance with Assurance A3413-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3.a., a preliminary report was made by the (b) (6) to you on July 12, 2019.

On June 6, 2019, the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) received a report involving a departure from the approved protocol. Seven (3 COX2-Eos-cre and 4 iPHIL) mice were administered acetaminophen on June 5, 2019. Although the acetaminophen and dose (300 mg/kg, i.p) were approved on the protocol, the aforementioned strains were not approved to receive the acetaminophen. Five (2 COX2-Eos-cre and 3 iPHIL) of the seven mice were found dead on the morning of June 6. One COX2-Eos-cre was moribund and was immediately euthanized in addition to the remaining iPHIL mouse. The dose of acetaminophen is acceptable for the wild-type and other knock-out strains approved to receive the acetaminophen, with appropriate monitoring for potential clinical consequences. A protocol amendment was submitted and approved on July 26, 2019, to include the aforementioned strains as strains approved to receive acetaminophen and to decrease the dose range of acetaminophen to prevent irreversible liver injury. Additionally, the protocol was amended to increase the monitoring frequency post-administration. Specifically, the monitoring frequency was extended from monitoring at 4 hours post acetaminophen administration to checking the mice at least once per day for the duration of the experiment (up to 3 days). In order to prevent any departures from the approved protocol, laboratory personnel were reminded to review the protocol prior to the start of experiments in general and the experiments involving acetaminophen specifically.

Brent Morse, D.V.M., DACLAM  
Re: Assurance A3413-01  
August 20, 2019  
Page 2 of 2.

The animals involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding (5R01DK109574-02). No significant costs associated with this event were identified. Funds will be returned if associated costs are identified.

The AWC Protocol Deviation Subcommittee has investigated the incident, evaluated the corrective action plan, and feels that the incident has been successfully resolved.

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

Sincerely,  
(b) (6)

Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

MRB/tsl

cc: Dr. Christophe Ribelayga, IACUC Chair  
(b) (6)  
AWC Office

**Na, Jane (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 4:14 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Blackburn, Michael R; Ribelayga, Christophe P; (b) (6) Animal Welfare Committee, GM; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Assurance A3413-01

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for providing these four final reports. All four attachments were received. We will send official responses soon.

Jane

Jane Na, DVM, CPIA  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Phone (301) 402-1922  
E-fax (301) 451-5609

**Disclaimer:** Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected, or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 23, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Blackburn, Michael R <Michael.R.Blackburn@uth.tmc.edu>; Ribelayga, Christophe P <Christophe.P.Ribelayga@uth.tmc.edu>; (b) (6) Animal Welfare Committee, GM <awc@uth.tmc.edu>  
**Subject:** Assurance A3413-01  
**Importance:** High

***Sent on behalf of Michael R. Blackburn, Ph.D., EVP & Chief Academic Officer / Institutional Official, UTHealth—***

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find attached four (4) PDFs concerning the above referenced.

Please advise if you have any issues with receiving the attachments.

Thanks and regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *[Signature]*

Date: 7/19/19

Time: Voicemail from 7/12/19

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution:

Univ of Texas Health - Houston

Assurance number:

A3413

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

What happened? 7 mice give acetaminophen on June 5, 2019. Strains were not authorized acetaminophen & were over-sensitive → liver failure.

Species involved: Mice

Personnel involved: Researcher

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: Yes

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

Amendment to add proper doses for specific strains

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

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