



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
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

June 13, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A4107-01 (OLAW Case 1N)

Dr. Daniel T. Jaffe
Vice President for Research
University of Texas at Austin
P.O. Box 7996
Austin, TX 78713

Dear Dr. Jaffe,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 6, 2017 letter reporting an adverse event at The University of Texas at Austin. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on March 30, 2017 a mechanical failure in the tank aeration system occurred, resulting in gas over-saturation and the ultimate demise and euthanasia of a total of one hundred and fifty fish. The involved animal activity was funded by NSF grants IOS-0843712, IOS-1354942 and IOS-1501704.

The corrective action consisted of the Principal Investigator converting the tanks to a fill/dump system in an effort to prevent the recurrence of a similar future adverse event.

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 Texas at Austin 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,

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

cc: IACUC Chair
NSF Animal Welfare Officer: Edda Thiels



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
Office of the Vice President for Research

P.O. Box 7996 • FAC 426, G1400 • Austin, Texas 78713-7996 • 512-471-2877 • FAX 512-471-2827

June 6, 2017

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Subject: Report of serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide*

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of The University of Texas at Austin (University), Animal Welfare Assurance #A4107-01, submits this report in compliance with section IV.F.3 of the *PHS policy on Humane care and Use of Laboratory Animals* and with the published guidance documents NOT-OD-05-034 "Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" and NOT-OD-15-139 "Memorandum of Understanding Between NIH and NSF Concerning Laboratory Animal Welfare." This letter is to report one incident involving "conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, including natural disasters, accidents, and mechanical failures, resulting in actual harm or death to animals." We apologize in the delay in reporting as our IACUC management team was in a period of personnel change.

This incident occurred on March 30, 2017, in room 100M of the JT Patterson Laboratory Building on the Austin campus of the University of Texas. The room houses several fish tanks in which water is oxygenized by a tank aeration system. Approximately 150 of the fish housed in these tanks were found have died overnight or be suffering from the effects of gas over-saturation. Air bubbles noted in empty tanks and on the fins of the fish helped the researchers reach this conclusion. The aeration system was shut off and any unrecoverable, affected animals were euthanized. The system remained turned off overnight to reduce stress in the surviving fish and so that the system could be examined for issues. After checking all the valves as well as piping for possible problems, the system was re-started and working without any problems. It was determined that the cause of the incident was a mechanical failure in the tank aeration system. Since a similar event involving this system occurred two years ago, the Principal Investigator has decided to transition the tanks to a fill/dump system.

The IACUC discussed this isolated incident during the May 08, 2017 Full Committee Review (FCR) and is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct, and prevent recurrence.

The following National Science Foundation (NSF) grants provide support to the affected animals:

- IOS-0843712 entitled "Molecular Basis of Social Decision Making: Towards a Mechanistic View of Mate Choice"
- IOS-1354942 entitled "Neural and Molecular Substrates of Social Competence"
- IOS-1501704 entitled "DISSERTATION RESEARCH: Probing the social interactome: how social network

Axel Wolff, Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
June 6, 2017
Re: PHS Assurance Number A4107-01
Page 2

position affects physiology and behavior.”

The appropriate Grants Management Specialists and Program Officials are copied on this letter.

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in teaching and research while facilitating quality research in the scientific community. Both myself, and the IACUC, have taken this situation quite seriously and will continue to cooperate with OLAW on this and any further issues of non-compliance. If you have any questions or require further documentation, please contact [redacted] at [redacted] Phone Number or e-mail to: [redacted]@austin.utexas.edu.

Sincerely,



Daniel Jaffe
Vice President for Research
Jane and Roland Blumberg Centennial Professor of Astronomy

DTJ: aem

cc: David Crews, Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
[redacted] National Science Foundation Grants Management Specialist
[redacted] National Science Foundation Grants Management
Edda Thiels, Program Director, National Science Foundation Grants Management

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2017 7:37 AM
To: Secondary Individual
Subject: RE: PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number: A4107-01| Report of deviation from the provisions of the Guide

Thank you for this report, Secondary Individual. We will respond soon.

Axel Wolff

From: Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Individual@austin.utexas.edu]
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <WolffA@OD.NIH.GOV>; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Jaffe, Dan <dtj@austin.utexas.edu>; Crews, David P <crews@austin.utexas.edu>; Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Individual@austin.utexas.edu]; ethiels@nsf.gov; skerchne@nsf.gov
Subject: PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number: A4107-01| Report of deviation from the provisions of the Guide

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of the Vice President for Research, Dr. Dan Jaffe, please find the attached report of a serious deviation from the Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals that occurred at the University of Texas at Austin. Please note that due to personnel changes within our IACUC administration, a prompt initial report of this incident was not made as per OLAW notice NOT-OD-05-034. I apologize for this delay.

If you have any questions or need to follow up in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Secondary Individual
IACUC/IBC Manager
University of Texas at Austin