



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

July 8, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3168-01 [OLAW Case N]

Dr. Ping Wang
Chief Scientific Officer
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
350 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030

Dear Dr. Wang,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 2, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, following up on an initial telephone report on June 21, 2019. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that the lights in a mouse room had been on continuously for over three weeks. Mice were reportedly showing signs of stress and the investigators felt that their experiments had been negatively impacted.

The corrective actions consisted of implementing an electronic alert system to ensure that the appropriate light cycle is in place, implementing an override system, implementing off hour checks to ensure appropriate operation, maintaining monitoring records, providing ongoing status updates to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and ensuring that any problems reported to engineering are also reported to a departmental supervisor. Investigator's whose animals have been impacted should contact the Center for Comparative Physiology for assistance. The Animal Welfare Office will conduct ongoing monitoring to ensure that the new processes are successful.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair
Director, Animal Welfare Office



Ping Wang, MD
Chief Scientific Officer
Institutional Official
350 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030
Tel: (b) (6)
Email: pwang@northwell.edu

VIA E-MAIL

July 2, 2019

Dr. Axel Wolff
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982
E-mail: olawdco@mail.nih.gov

PHS Assurance Number: D16-00107 (A3168-01)

Dear Dr. Wolff:

I am writing to inform the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare of an incident of serious animal welfare that occurred at the Center for Comparative Physiology (CCP) at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. While the research in question is not federally funded we are reporting this incident under the terms and conditions of our federal assurance.

On Sunday, April 14, 2019, an animal facility staff member contacted engineering upon noticing lights were not on in one of the mouse housing rooms. These rooms are programmed by the Siemens system which is controlled by engineering. On May 21, 2019, an investigator who was working off hours (after 6:00pm) noticed the lights were on in the affected mouse housing room. He promptly reported this to the animal facility director who contacted engineering to investigate this matter. The lights in the affected room were put into the override mode in the Siemens system when the technician originally called in the incident, Sunday, April 14, 2019. The override mode never timed out nor did the room revert back to the regular light schedule (6am-6pm). The affected room was switched back to normal operating mode on May 23, 2019. This incident was reported to the IACUC June 12, 2019.

We understand the repercussions of this incident has propagated throughout the research of all investigators who housed mice in the affected room. In follow up to the verbal report provided by our Animal Welfare Office Director to OLAW on June 21, 2019 and after a comprehensive investigation, the findings were deliberated at a convened meeting of the IACUC July 1, 2019. The following corrective action plans were ratified.

Corrective Actions:

1. Engineering has developed an electronic alert system to ensure proper cycling. A code requested as a security feature to eliminate any issues with the lights not turning back on or off when "Operator Override" was programmed and promptly implemented.
2. A departmental level (CCP) process will be developed to periodically conduct off hour's performance checks regularly to ensure proper cycling of all systems. Monitoring records will be maintained by the CCP and be available upon request. Status of periodic facility systems monitoring and operational updates will be reported to the IACUC at a convened meeting on a periodic basis (i.e. outages, facility incidences, etc.). Process will be developed for IACUC review and approval by August 9, 2019.

3. Recommend CCP develop a departmental level process of internal communication, documentation and follow up. Any technician who reports an issue to engineering should also promptly notify a CCP Supervisor for department level documentation (initial report to resolution) and CCP follow up, as applicable. Departmental records are to be maintained by the CCP and be available upon request. Process should be developed for IACUC review and approval by August 9, 2019.

4. Affected PIs should contact the CCP Director if they have noted breeding issues or require assistance with delayed weaning, etc. Depopulation of the room may be a necessary action which we have left to the discretion of the affected PIs.

5. Once processes are finalized as described in points 2 and 3 above, the Animal Welfare Office will conduct monthly reviews for at least 6 months verifying adherence to the new processes.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Ping Wang, MD
Chief Scientific Officer
Institutional Official

cc: Dr. Kathryn Bayne, Chief Executive Officer, AAALAC International, kbayne@aaalac.org; Dr. Max Brenner, IACUC Chairman mbrenner@northwell.edu; Michelle Aparicio, Director, Animal Welfare Office iacuc@northwell.edu

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Aparicio, Michelle
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report to OLAW D16-00107

Thank you for this report, Ms. Aparicio. We will send a response soon.
Axel Wolff

From: Aparicio, Michelle <MAparici@northwell.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 1:20 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Wang, Ping - MD <PWang@northwell.edu>; kbayne@aaalac.org; Brenner, Max <MBrenner@northwell.edu>; IACUC <IACUC@northwell.edu>
Subject: Report to OLAW D16-00107

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In follow up to a preliminary verbal report June 21, 2019, attached please find a final report including a full explanation of circumstances and actions taken consistent with NOT-OD-05-034.

Please advise if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you.

Michelle Aparicio, CPIA
Director, Animal Welfare Office
Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)
Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research-Northwell Health
Vice-Chair, PRIM&R CPIA Council (CCPIA®)
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Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: aw

Date: 6/21/19

Time: 12:30

Name of Person reporting: Michelle Aparicio

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Feinstein Inst, Inc

Assurance number: A3168

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

Legits on in animal room for ~39 days, mice stressed + not breeding, eating pups

Species involved: Mice

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

Put in sensors to notify if legits not working
May need to euthanize most mice

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____