



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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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) 480-3387

February 21, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3245-01 (OLAW Case 3W]

Dr. Melur K. Ramasubramanian  
Vice President for Research  
Professor, Mechanical Engineering  
University of Virginia  
Box 400301  
Charlottesville VA 22904-4301

Dear Dr. Ramasubramanian,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 18, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Virginia. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that skin sutures were not removed in a timely manner from research pigs. This was contrary to the protocol and institutional policy.

The corrective actions consisted of verbal and written counseling of the veterinarian's staff responsible. The staff members acknowledged understanding of when sutures are supposed to be removed and of the policies.

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.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

**University of Virginia**  
**Animal Welfare Compliance Report**  
*PHS Assurance # A3245-01*

This document is a summary of the incident, actions taken, and final resolution. Due to the timing of the investigation and resolution, a preliminary report was not submitted.

**UVA Compliance Case #:** 2020-A

<b>Nature of Incident(s):</b>	Condition that had the potential to jeopardize the health or well-being of animals. Specifically, skin sutures were not removed in a timely manner (swine)
<b>Summary of Incident:</b>	The Attending Veterinarian (AV) found and self-reported to the IACUC a compliance issue involving his staff and the IACUC policy related to survival surgery. Two of his employees performed survival surgery in accordance with a PI's approved protocol. They failed to remove sutures from swine in a timely manner and in accordance with the expectations included in the survival surgery policy.
<b>Action taken by IACUC:</b>	At the next convened monthly meeting, the IACUC reviewed the letter sent by the AV describing the event, investigation, and follow-up performed by the AV.
<b>Action taken by Attending Veterinarian:</b>	Upon discovery, the AV reminded both individuals of the details of the policy and each received a Letter of Counseling. Both acknowledged that IACUC policies must be followed and sutures must be removed upon incisional healing. Each was told that failure to adhere to IACUC policies would result in further disciplinary action.
<b>Action taken by IACUC:</b>	The IACUC felt that the AV responded appropriately and no further action was deemed necessary.
<b>Decision/Resolution:</b>	The IACUC considered the incident resolved with no fault to the PI (grant holder).
<b>Federal Funding:</b>	R01 HL131919-01A1
<b>Notification of Final Disposition:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OLAW

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 3:16 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Ramasubramanian, Melur K (mkr5a); Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Subject:** RE: UVA OLAW Compliance reports 2019-U and 2020-A

Thank you for providing these reports. We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020 2:57 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E] <wardjoa@od.nih.gov>; Ramasubramanian, Melur K (mkr5a) <mkr5a@virginia.edu>  
**Subject:** UVA OLAW Compliance reports 2019-U and 2020-A

Dr. Axel Wolff, Director of Compliance Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare National Institutes of Health RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, MD

Dr. Wolff:

I attach two compliance reports from our IACUC. These are our cases 2019-U and 2020-A.

In these cases, the IACUC has investigated thoroughly, taken appropriate action and the committee has determined that these matters are now resolved to their satisfaction.

I have reviewed the reports and I concur with the committee responses and final determinations.

Regards,  
(b) (6)

For Melur Ramasubramanian

(b) (6)

(b) (6)