

From: [Gibbens, Robert - APHIS](#)
To: [Cody M - APHIS Yager \(cody.m.yager@usda.gov\)](#); [Keller, Martha - APHIS](#)
Subject: FW: OLAW Case A3823-60
Date: Friday, June 5, 2020 9:06:00 AM
Attachments: [0366_001.pdf](#)

FYI

From: Walker, Keri (NIH/OD) [C] [mailto:keri.walker@nih.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 5, 2020 6:18 AM
To: mdickins@bcm.edu
Cc: Gibbens, Robert - APHIS <robert.m.gibbens@usda.gov>; (b) (6)
Subject: OLAW Case A3823-60

Dear Dr. Dickinson,

Attached please find Dr. Wolff's interim response to OLAW Case A3823-60.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by phone or by e-mail.

Best Regards,
Keri

*Keri Walker
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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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June 3, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3823-01 [OLAW Case 60]

Dr. Mary Dickinson
Vice President and Dean of Research
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, BCM335
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Dickinson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 1, 2020 letter providing the thirteenth report under an enhanced reporting schedule for Baylor College of Medicine. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following:

- During the pandemic animal activities have been greatly reduced, including surgical training and proficiency evaluation. However, demonstration of proficiency is still required before research staff conducts rodent surgery.
- The central animal facility training staff and veterinary staff have trained and verified the proficiency of 259 Training Ambassadors; 30 individuals are enrolled to be trained. The numbers of individuals to be trained are stable and have reached a steady state.
- The Training Ambassadors have trained and assessed the proficiency of 572 laboratory members; 204 laboratory surgery personnel are enrolled and being trained.
- No surgery is conducted until staff is deemed proficient. Those found not to be proficient are retrained and re-evaluated.
- Every laboratory currently approved to conduct surgery now has a Training Ambassador.
- Ongoing evaluations are conducted to continue to ensure proficiency of the Training Ambassadors and the laboratory surgery personnel they have trained; 35 evaluations have been completed and 143 individuals have been contacted for evaluations. All individuals conducting surgery were found to be proficient.
- The development of surgery training for USDA covered species is ongoing. The veterinary staff will be working with surgeons on role-specific training. A large animal training database has been developed for tracking trainees.
- Post-approval monitoring visits continue to be conducted to assess compliance with the protocol; 15 comprehensive visits have been conducted since the prior report to OLAW and these are used to provide guidance for improving surgical technique.

- Escalating corrective actions have been implemented to address surgical noncompliance. The Faculty Senate is being kept apprised on matters of animal welfare and the implications of noncompliance.

Based on the success of the program to date and the continuing decline in reports of surgical noncompliance, OLAW will request one final update due **September 1, 2020**. Please continue to carefully monitor the surgical procedures throughout the program in coordination with the overall surgery training and enhancement plan to ensure complete compliance. Also, continue to promptly report any surgical noncompliance as it occurs. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on these matters.

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC