



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

November 14, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 1X)

Dr. Todd Evans
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medical College
1300 York Avenue, LC710
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 12, 2019 letter reporting three instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medical College. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the incidents and the corresponding corrective actions:

- 1) Mice were subjected to toe clipping over the age of 17 days which is contrary to institutional policy and the protocol.

Corrective action: The Principal Investigator and staff were counseled on the requirement to only perform procedures as described in the protocol.

- 2) The same issue as described in #1 occurred with another investigator.

Corrective action: Same as for #1.

- 3) Ten mice died from asphyxiation in a hypoxia chamber because the oxygen monitor was off. It was determined that the plug became detached from the monitor when the chamber was moved.

Corrective action: The power cords have been rearranged and warning signs were placed on the chamber.

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



Weill Cornell Medicine

A3290-1X

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
1300 York Avenue, Box 5
New York, NY 10065

Telephone: 646-962-2981/2
Email: iacucadmin@med.cornell.edu

445 East 69th Street, Olin Hall Rm-423
New York, NY 10065

November 12, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM
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

Re: Assurance # D16-00186

Dear Dr. Morse:

We are writing to report three incidents of non-compliance that occurred within the animal care and use program at Weill Cornell Medicine. The incidents were presented to and discussed by the IACUC during the months of October and November. The incidents and resolutions are as follows:

In separate incidents involving two investigators, mice were toe clipped at ages that exceeded the age specified in the protocol. Toe clipping is approved on the protocols for mice up to 17 days of age and thus, the procedure was not performed in accordance with the protocol or our institutional policy. Both PIs were contacted by the IACUC and instructed to inform his lab members of the requirement to adhere to the protocol performing only approved procedures as described. (No PHS grants associated with one investigator. National Institute of Health 2 R01 AI079178-06A1)

Three cages containing a total of 10 mice used in study of hypoxia were found dead. The hypoxia chambers have a regulator to control nitrogen levels as well as a monitor for oxygen levels. On the day of the incident the oxygen monitor was off and the mice most likely died of asphyxiation. The IACUC contacted the PI and asked them to determine why the monitor was off and to develop a plan to prevent recurrence. It was determined that movement of the chamber may have caused the plug to dislodge from the monitor. Power cords have since been rearranged and cautionary signage was placed on the chamber to prevent further occurrences. (National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute 2 R01 HL055330-20A1 & National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases 1 K08 DK114558-01A1)

We believe that these issues have been adequately addressed and that the procedures implemented should prevent recurrence. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (b) (6) (b) (6) or the IACUC Chairman, Dr. Andrew Nicholson, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medicine

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:18 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will respond soon.
Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 10:49 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Andrew C. Nicholson <nicholso@med.cornell.edu>; Todd R. Evans <tre2003@med.cornell.edu>
Subject: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Dear OLAW:

Please find a WCM IACUC incident report attached and let me know if any further clarifications are required.

Best regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

