



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) 480-3387

September 28, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 2B)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Research, WCM  
Weill Medical College of Cornell University  
1300 York Avenue, LC-708  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your September 23, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Weill Cornell Medical College. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Weill Cornell Medical College Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to provide appropriate analgesia to animals and inadequate recordkeeping. The final report states an investigator did not administer an analgesic dose 24h post-operatively to mice following a laminectomy. The IACUC alerted the principal investigator (PI) of the incident and requested the PI address the matter with their lab members and reinforce the importance of ensuring all analgesics are administered as stated in the approved protocol. The PI stated they have addressed the matter with all members of the lab.

The report also states that during veterinary rounds, it was observed that there was no documentation of required analgesic administration following a surgical procedure in several mice. The responsible lab member stated the mice did receive analgesia, but that they did not complete the surgery cards. The PI investigated the matter and determined the responsible individual had in fact not administered analgesia as specified in the protocol. In response, the lab member's employment was terminated.

It is noted that this project is supported by PHS funds. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Weill Cornell Medical College has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by  
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S  
Date: 2020.09.28 09:53:39  
-04'00'

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



# Weill Cornell Medicine

A 3290-2B

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 69<sup>th</sup> Street, Olin Hall Rm-423  
New York, NY 10065

September 23, 2020

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 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 month of September. The incident and resolution is as follows:

An investigator failed to provide an analgesic dose 24 hours post-operatively to mice following a laminectomy. Analgesics were provided at all other required time points. The IACUC informed the PI and requested that they address the issue with their lab members and remind them of the importance of ensuring all analgesics are administered as described in the approved protocol. The PI responded that they addressed the issue with all laboratory members. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke R01NS093002; R01NS100772; R01NS115963 & R01NS119508)

During veterinary rounds it was noted that there was no record of required analgesic administration following middle cerebral artery occlusion surgery in several mice recorded on the surgery card. When questioned, the responsible lab member indicated that the mice had received them, but they had neglected to complete the surgery cards. A follow-up investigation by the PI found that the lab member had lied as the mice were not given analgesics as described in the protocol. The lab member's employment was terminated. (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute R01NS095359; National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke R01NS103326 - 01A1; 1R01NS111568 - 01)

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) 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]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2020 7:37 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 send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:33 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)