



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

April 15, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3922-01 [OLAW Case 2I]

Ms. Peggy McGill  
Sr. Vice President of Research Administration  
Rhode Island Hospital  
1 Hoppin St., (b) (4)  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. McGill,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated March 1, 2019 [read: April 1, 2019] regarding a reportable incident at your institution.

According to the information provided, our office understands that six mice on a protocol approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) unexpectedly died or required euthanasia at the direction of the veterinarian. The P.I.'s team investigated the incident and determined that although the individuals that were involved had been trained, the issues stemmed from technical difficulties with the gavage procedure. Additional training was provided as a corrective measure. The full IACUC met on March 27, 2019 and approved the corrective measure but added the stipulation that the Veterinary Services Staff assist with future gavage procedures until the veterinarians are satisfied that the laboratory staff can safely perform the procedure. This incident did not involve any Public Health Service funding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by your institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Although this activity was not PHS funded, the establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard. Please note that reports of noncompliance to OLAW should include dates of occurrence when describing the incident. Please include this information in future submissions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Nicolette Petervary, VMD, DACAW  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



## Lifespan

**Office of Research Administration**

Administrative Office for the Animal Welfare Committee  
1 Hoppin St, Suite 1.300 Providence, RI 02903  
Phone: 401-444-2093 Fax: 401-444-7960

Rhode Island Hospital  
The Miriam Hospital

March 1, 2019

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Acting Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

RE: Animal Welfare Incident at Rhode Island Hospital (Institutional Assurance No: A3922-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

I am writing to inform you of a recent unanticipated problem that resulted in harm to 6 mice at our institution. The incident was associated with work supported with internal funding.

Three mice received an infectious agent by oral gavage under an IACUC approved protocol, performed by individuals who had been trained in the procedure. The administration was uneventful and well tolerated, however, the mice began looking ill 48 hours later. One died and the other two were euthanized at the direction of the veterinarian.

It was initially suspected that the agent was more virulent than previously reported. However, a subsequent trial with a control strain also resulted in the death of 3 more mice. The matter was investigated by the PI's team, who determined that the mouse deaths were the result of technical difficulties with the gavage procedure. Additional training has since been provided.

The incident was discussed at the regularly scheduled meeting of the full IACUC on March 27, 2019. The committee approved the additional training as remediation, with the added stipulation that Veterinary Services Staff will assist with future gavage procedures until the veterinarians are satisfied the procedure can be performed safely by the lab staff.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Peggy McGill, MA, CRA  
Vice President, Research Administration  
Lifespan Institutional IO

cc: (b) (6)

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

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:21 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Animal Welfare Incident- Assurance A3922-01

Thank you for providing this report. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

---

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2019 9:49 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Incident- Assurance A3922-01

Good Morning,  
Enclosed please find is a letter from our IO regarding the death of 6 mice.  
Please contact me if you have any questions about the report.  
Thank you

(b) (6)



For more information, please visit our website at [www.Lifespan.org/research](http://www.Lifespan.org/research)

This transmission is intended only for the addressee(s) listed above and may contain information that is confidential. If you are not the addressee, any use, disclosure, copying or communication of the contents of this message is prohibited. Please contact me if this message was transmitted in error.