



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

May 24, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3428-01 [OLAW Case 1P]

Dr. Lisa K. Saladin  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
Medical University of South Carolina  
179 Ashley Avenue  
Colcock Hall, (b) (4)  
Charleston, SC 29425

Dear Dr. Saladin,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 16, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), following up on an initial telephone notification on February 1, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on January 24, 2018, two genetically-modified naïve rats escaped when their cage fell from the cart that they were being transported on. One of the rats was immediately recaptured and the second rat was later captured, in good condition, in a live trap on February 11, 2018 and subsequently euthanized. The Institutional Biosafety Committee was notified of the incident and MUSC affirms that the genetic modification did not pose any public health concerns. It was determined that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for transport were not appropriately followed by the responsible animal caretaker. The associated animal activity in question was not PHS funded.

The corrective actions consisted of revising the relevant SOPs; retraining all personnel involved in the transportation of animals on proper transport procedures including the correct taping of cages; ensuring the availability of appropriate supplies in the facilities and identifying existing transport carts that are in need of repair or replacement.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. Your prompt and thorough resolution of this matter is commendable and consistent with the PHS Policy philosophy of monitored self-regulation. We appreciate having been informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



A3428-17

Lisa K. Saladin, PT, PhD, FAPTA  
Executive Vice President  
for Academic Affairs and Provost  
saladinl@musc.edu

19 Bee Street  
Colcock Hall  
MSC 002  
Charleston, SC 29425-0020  
Office 843-792-3031  
musc.edu

May 16, 2018

Axel V. Wolff, MS, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Follow-up Status Report for Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Species: Rat

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are writing to provide a follow up status report conveying institutional review and resolution by the IACUC at the Medical University of South Carolina (Animal Welfare Assurance #A3428). A preliminary report was submitted to OLAW by the Attending Veterinarian, Dr. Suzanne Craig, on January 26, 2018.

During transport of several rat cages between buildings by an animal caretaker on January 24, 2018, one cage fell from the transport cart and two naïve, genetically-modified rats escaped. One was immediately recaptured, but the second rat escaped. Pest control was notified and live traps were placed in the vicinity. It was confirmed that the genetic modification did not present any public health concerns. This incident was reported to the IACUC at the January 25, 2018 meeting. Because the rat was genetically modified, the Institutional Biosafety Committee was also notified of the incident. A live trap captured the rat on February 11, 2018. The rat was euthanized and necropsy showed that he was in good condition at the time of recapture.

Investigation of the incident determined that Division of Laboratory Animal Research (DLAR) SOPs for transport were not followed. To address the lapse, DLAR leadership reviewed the existing SOPs and further updated them to include photographs of procedures to be used. All personnel involved with transportation of animals were subsequently retrained on proper transport technique, including the correct method of taping cages. Additional steps were put in place to ensure that appropriate supplies are available in the facilities at all times. Existing transport carts were also reviewed to identify needed repairs or to schedule replacement.

The IACUC reviewed the actions taken by DLAR to address the incident and agreed that appropriate steps to prevent recurrence have been implemented. No PHS funds were impacted by this incident. The Medical University of South Carolina works to maintain the highest standards in all aspects of its operations and is concerned about any instances of non-compliance. We are constantly examining our programs for quality improvement opportunities, and believe that the corrective actions taken in this

case effectively addressed the noted concerns. We would appreciate further guidance on this subject, should you feel it is appropriate.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Lisa K. Saladin, PT, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Cc: Rupak Mukherjee, Ph.D. – Chair, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
Suzanne Craig, DVM – Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Resources

(b) (6)

Aimee McRae-Clark, PharmD –Director, Office of Research Integrity

(b) (6)

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 6:07 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-Up Report from A3428-01

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)@musc.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 3:55 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Follow-Up Report from A3428-01

This message was sent securely by MUSC

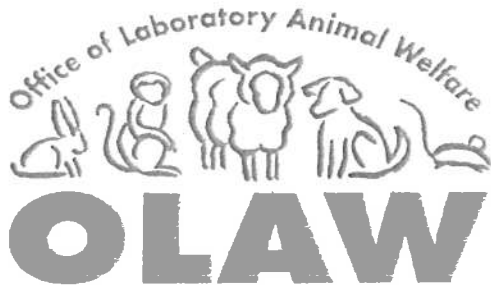
Please see the attached report. Please let me know if you have any questions or difficulties with the file.

(b) (6)



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This message was secured via TLS by MUSC.



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: awDate: 2/1/18Time: 1:45Name of Person reporting: Suzanne Craig AVTelephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Medical College of South CarolinaAssurance number: A3428Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

Rat escaped during shipment. Cage not taped,  
carts brokenSpecies involved: Rat

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Retrain, fix carts, get tape

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # \_\_\_\_\_