



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

February 25, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3153 [OLAW Case 2P]

Dr. Gyongyi Szabo
Chief Academic Officer
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
330 Brookline Ave., (b) (4)
Boston, MA 02215

Dear Dr. Szabo,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 9, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc. following up on an initial February 8, 2021 notification by voicemail.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: two mice presumed dead after discovery in a flooded cage. The final report states on January 29, 2021 a Lab Animal Technician II removed a flooded cage from a barrier facility and disposed of the animals in a plastic bag and placed it in a carcass refrigerator. Less than an hour later, an Animal Research Facility (ARF) staff member noticed a mouse moving inside the bag. In response, an ARF Supervisor was alerted and provided supportive care to the animal, that resulted in its fully recovery.

On February 1, 2021, the ARF Director notified the IACUC of the matter. The animal technician responsible for the incident acknowledged they failed to inform their supervisor of the matter, which is standard procedure. As a result, the technician was removed from participating in animal handling duties until the IACUC reviewed the incident. On February 4, 2021, the incident was discussed at the IACUC meeting and the committee approved creation of an SOP written by the ARF Director and Associate Director that includes the following information:

- Clear steps to take should mice be found in a flooded cage.
- Ensure staff are trained on the SOP and to alert their Supervisor immediately after identifying a flooded cage.
- The Supervisor or a Veterinary Technologist will immediately assess and tend to the animals including gentle hand stimulation, drying off with a towel and placing the animal on a controlled, heated surface.
- Confirming death by checking for a heartbeat and respiration before placing the animal in the refrigerator.

It is noted that the final report did not include the funding source involving the incident. In the future, please include the source of funding and provide grant numbers for all PHS, NSF or NASA supported work.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc. 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: 2021.02.25
11:02:00 -05'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



February 9, 2021

Axel V. Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
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

Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD, FAASLD, AGAF, FACP
Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D. Chair
Professor of Medicine and Faculty Dean for Academic Affairs
Harvard Medical School
Chief Academic Officer
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Beth Israel Lahey Health

Re: Non-compliance on Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) protocol # 017-2020 titled "Adipocyte gene expression and physiology." This study uses mice.

Dear Dr. Wolff:

We are reporting an animal welfare incident that occurred on January 29, 2021 involving a flooded cage. Two presumed dead mice were found by a Lab Animal Technician II and removed from the flooded cage in the Center for Life Science barrier facility at approximately 7:10 am. The mice were placed in a clear plastic bag and put into the carcass refrigerator, along with a copy of the ARF Notification slip used to email the researchers. Approximately fifty minutes later, a different Animal Research Facility (ARF) staff member noticed one of the mice moving inside the bag inside the refrigerator. The staff member alerted one of the ARF Supervisors who then dried the mouse with a towel and placed it in a heated incubator. The mouse recovered by 12 PM and was responsive and survived. The Principal Investigator was also notified.

On Monday, February 1, 2021, the ARF Director reported the incident to the IACUC using the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center IACUC Unanticipated Outcomes Form, which included information from the Animal Technician responsible for placing the animals in the refrigerator. He stated that both mice were cold and stiff and assumed that they both had died of hypothermia and acknowledged that he failed to notify his Supervisor of the incident when it occurred, which is standard procedure. The technician was immediately removed from participating in animal handling duties until the IACUC had discussed the incident.

On Thursday, February 4, 2021, the incident was discussed at the monthly IACUC Meeting and the corrective action that committee approved involved creating an SOP written by the ARF Director and Associate Director that includes the following:

- 1.) Clear steps to take should mice be found in a flooded cage.
- 2.) Ensure staff are trained on the SOP and to alert their Supervisor immediately after identifying a flooded cage.
- 3.) The Supervisor or a Veterinary Technologist will immediately assess and tend to the animals including gentle hand stimulation, drying off with a towel and placing the animal on a controlled, heated surface.

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Boston, MA 02215
Tel: 617-667-9050
gszabo1@bidmc.harvard.edu

4.) Confirming death by checking for a heartbeat and respiration before placing the animal in the refrigerator.

We believe these corrective actions will effectively prevent another similar occurrence.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Cc:
IACUC Chair
IACUC Administrator
ARF Director
AAALAC, International

330 Brookline Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
Tel: 617-667-9050
gszabo1@bidmc.harvard.edu

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 6:59 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: please see the attached letter

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

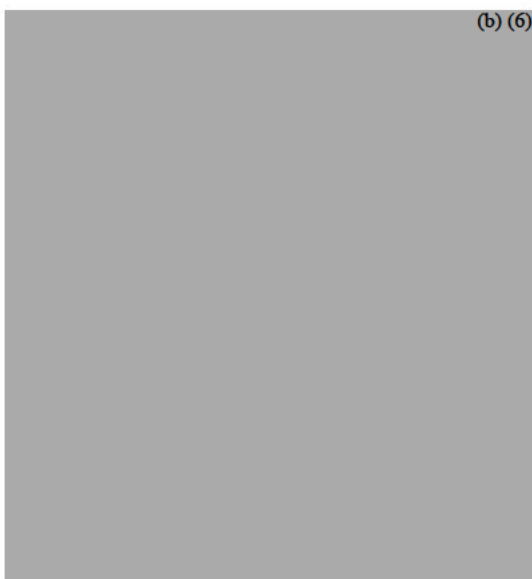
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 3:56 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: please see the attached letter

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached letter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid grey fill. The redaction covers the signature block and the body of the email.

This message is intended for the use of the person(s) to whom it may be addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, copying, or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please permanently delete it and immediately notify the sender. Thank you.



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 2/8/2021

Time: Voicemail

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Beth Israel Deaconess

Assurance number: A3153

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? ?

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened? Caretaker found mouse in flooded cage. Thought it was dead and put it in carcass refrigerator. Mouse found alive an hour later and was treated. Mouse lived.

Species involved: mouse

Personnel involved: Caretaker

Dates and times: ?

Animal deaths:

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

Caretaker removed from animal duties.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #