



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

April 17, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A4528-01 [OLAW Case 2E]

(b) (6)

Commander  
US Army Medical Research Institute of  
Chemical Defense  
3100 Ricketts Point Road  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5400

Dear (b) (6)

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of the communication submitted to our office on March 29, 2019 regarding an adverse event at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense which was preceded by a preliminary report via phone on March 27, 2019. According to the information supplied, OLAW understands that an investigator noted that a rat scheduled for surgery appeared dehydrated and had lost a significant amount of weight (~22%) since its arrival. The investigator administered fluids and gel to the animal which increased the rat's weight with a resulting weight loss of only ~5%. The investigator proceeded with surgery, but the animal died under anesthesia mid-way through the procedure. It was reported that the involved animal activity was PHS supported.

The IACUC notified the investigator that the rat's weight increase was not a true increase but rather due to the weight of the administered fluids. To help prevent future incidents, the investigator stated that any animal with 15% or more body weight loss from weight at arrival would not be used on the study until weight is regained.

OLAW accepts the actions taken to reduce the likelihood of recurrence of similar incidents and concurs with the submission of this report by the institution to comply with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate being informed of this incident and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jane Na, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer, OLAW  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



A4528

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE  
8350 RICKETTS POINT ROAD  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5400

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Commander

Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive  
Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Sir:

Please reference the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare Assurance number D16-00776. The incident described below occurred on a protocol funded by the National Institutes of Health, grant #AOD18013-001-00000.

**ANIMAL WELFARE CONCERN.** Recently a rat arrived at 226 grams and six days later weighed 176g and looked dehydrated. The investigator stated that fluids and gel were provided and the weight increased by 38 grams on that day. They then proceeded with scheduled EEG implant surgery. Half way through the surgery, the animal became unresponsive and was unable to recover.

**CORRECTIVE ACTION.** Our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee notified the investigator that the increase in weight after the fluids were given was not a true weight increase but rather a measure of the fluids given to the animal. To help prevent this in the future, the investigator stated that any animal that loses 15% or more in body weight from the arrival weight will not be used on the study for exposure or surgery until the weight is regained.

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee reviewed this adverse event which resulted in an animal death and determined it needed to be reported to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare since it is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

My point of contact for this matter is (b) (6) our Institutional Animal  
Care and Use Committee Chairman, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Institutional Official/Commanding

cc:

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Animal Care and Use  
Review Office  
Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care,  
International



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL DEFENSE**  
**8350 RICKETTS POINT ROAD**  
**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD 21010-5400**

**MCMR-CDZ**

**19 March 2019**

**MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION**

**SUBJECT: Assumption of Command by Authority of Army Regulation 600-20,  
Paragraph 2-5**

**The undersigned assumes command of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of  
Chemical Defense (W4D7AA), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5400,  
23 – 30 March 2019.**

(b) (6)

**Acting Commander**

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**A**

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2019 12:41 PM  
**To:** USARMY APG MEDCOM USAMRICD Mailbox IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Notice of Violation for Assurance #D16-00776

Thank you for this report, (b) (6). We will respond soon.

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** USARMY APG MEDCOM USAMRICD Mailbox IACUC <usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.mbx.iacuc@mail.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 29, 2019 11:15 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** USARMY APG MEDCOM USAMRICD Mailbox IACUC <usarmy.apg.medcom-usamricd.mbx.iacuc@mail.mil>  
**Subject:** Notice of Violation for Assurance #D16-00776

OLAW,

We had reported by phone to (b) (6) an adverse event that resulted in an animal death on a NIH funded protocol.

Our IACUC has reviewed and determined it needed to be reported to OLAW with a corrective action.

The letter is attached and signed by our Deputy Commander since our Commander/IO is on business travel. In the letter there is also a page showing that the Deputy Commander has authority to act in the Commander's absence.

Regards,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

IACUC Chair/Statistician  
USAMRICD  
8350 Ricketts Point Rd.  
APG, MD 21010

(b) (6)



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 3-27-19

Time: 3:18 PM

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: USAMRIID

Assurance number: 016-00716 (A4528-01)

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Yes

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

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

## What happened?

Within 6 days of arrival at facility, one rat lost weight and PT gave gel and fluids and performed surgery on the animal. Animal died.

Species involved: 1 Rat

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

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