



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

June 28, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3865-01 [OLAW Case 1D]

Professor Joseph Incandela  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of California-Santa Barbara  
Office of Research  
(b) (4) Cheadle Hall  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2050

Dear Dr. Incandela,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 16, 2022, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of California, Santa Barbara. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a researcher was bitten while inappropriately euthanizing mice by combining two different cages, in an attempt to save time. This action contradicts the IACUC Euthanasia of Animals Guideline, which states that, "Animals from different cages or groups should not be mixed in the euthanasia chamber as this may cause distress or harm (i.e. from fighting) to the animals." The researcher received immediate medical treatment for the bite wound inflicted by the wild-type mouse.

The corrective actions consisted of the responsible researcher rereading the applicable IACUC Euthanasia of Animals Guideline. The responsible individual was also retrained on mouse euthanasia procedures and the IACUC approved modifications to the current IACUC Euthanasia Guideline to clarify any ambiguities.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Neera V. Gopee

Digitally signed by Neera V.

Gopee -5

Date: 2022.06.28 08:39:04 -04'00'

-5

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT  
Associate Director, Animal Welfare Policy  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

cc: IACUC Chair

# UC SANTA BARBARA

A3865-1D

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Santa Barbara CA 93106-5062  
Tel: (805) 893-5855  
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Email: [iacuc@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:iacuc@lifesci.ucsb.edu)  
<https://www.research.ucsb.edu/animal-subjects/about>

June 16, 2022

Animal Welfare Assurance A3865-01 (D16-00497)

Dr. Brent Morse, Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500  
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

Dear Dr. Morse,

In accordance with our Assurance and PHS Policy IV.F.3, I am writing to report an incident of protocol non-compliance involving the care and use of animals at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Below is the full investigation report into IACUC protocol #6-21-938.1, "Creation of a New Generation of Transgenic Mosquitoes to Control Infectious Disease". The IACUC is convinced that appropriate remediations were enacted to prevent recurrence of the incident described below.

### Summary of Investigation:

On May 17, 2022, the IACUC received a copy of an Employer's First Report of Injury form describing an incident that occurred on April 27, 2022. During the afternoon of April 27th, a researcher was euthanizing multiple cages of mice in the Necropsy Room of the Bio2 vivarium when they were bit on their middle finger by a mouse. The bite did break the skin and a small amount of blood was drawn. The researcher immediately reported the bite to the available ARC staff, received a bandage, and left to receive treatment. One detail included on the form is that the researcher had been combining different cages of mice for euthanasia when s/he was bitten. However, the IACUC Euthanasia of Animals Guideline states that, "Animals from different cages or groups should not be mixed in the euthanasia chamber as this may cause distress or harm (i.e. from fighting) to the animals". After being informed of the report described above, the IACUC Chair appointed a sub-Committee, comprised of himself and another IACUC member, to investigate the matter further.

On May 25, 2022, the sub-Committee met with the researcher to discuss the incident. The researcher confirmed that the details described above are accurate. After informing the ARC staff of the bite and receiving a bandage, s/he went to UCSB's Student Health services for treatment. However, when s/he arrived at Student Health, it was after-hours and s/he was instructed to receive care at an emergency room. The researcher then went to the local hospital's emergency room and received appropriate medical care. The researcher confirmed that, on the way to the hospital, s/he informed their PI, Lab Manager, and the

Attending Veterinarian (AV) that they were going to the emergency room to receive care. When asked about the euthanasia procedures, the researcher said that they had 4 cages of mice to euthanize that afternoon. After euthanizing the first cage of mice and confirming death with a secondary method, the researcher said that s/he then began to combine two separate cages of mice in order to save time. It was while a wild-type mouse was being transferred into another cage of mice that it bit her/his finger. The sub-Committee reminded the researcher that the practice of combining animals from different cages for euthanasia is not appropriate, as described in the euthanasia guideline. The researcher confirmed that s/he had read the guideline when completing their initial IACUC training. The sub-Committee recommends that the researcher immediately re-read the IACUC's Euthanasia of Animals Guideline, as well as receive retraining on mouse euthanasia procedures from the their lab's designated trainer. Shortly after the meeting, the researcher was provided with a PDF of the Euthanasia of Animals Guideline and instructed to schedule a time for euthanasia retraining with his/her lab. Additionally, the IACUC will review the Euthanasia of the Animals Guideline and revise it, as necessary, to clarify any ambiguities, such as revising the statement about not combining animals from different cages prior to euthanasia from a "should" statement to a "must" statement. The modification to the IACUC Guideline was approved on June 3, 2022.

On June 10, 2022, the IACUC Chair summarized the details of the incident for the Committee at a regularly convened meeting. The IACUC discussed the improperly performed euthanasia procedures and how this likely caused the mice additional distress, which may have caused them to bite the researcher. The IACUC agreed that the sub-Committee's recommendations for the researcher to reread the IACUC Guideline and to be retrained on euthanasia procedures was appropriate. The researcher has confirmed that s/he has reread the IACUC Guideline and has requested euthanasia retraining from their lab (retraining will occur the next time their lab has a need to euthanize animals). The IACUC voted to approve this investigation report and that this incident is reportable to OLAW and AAALAC.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Prof. Joseph Incandela  
Institutional Official  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
(b) (4) Cheadle Hall  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2050  
incandela@research.ucsb.edu

Cc: Dr. Stuart Feinstein, IACUC Chair  
Dr. Manuel Garcia, Campus Veterinarian  
IACUC Office

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 7:31 AM  
**To:** IACUC Office  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Incident Report for A3865-01

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

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

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

**From:** IACUC Office <iacuc@lifesci.ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2022 6:04 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Joseph Incandela <incandela@research.ucsb.edu>; Manny Garcia <manuel.garcia@ucsb.edu>; Stu Feinstein <feinstei@lifesci.ucsb.edu>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Incident Report for A3865-01

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is a letter that details an incident of noncompliance at the University of California, Santa Barbara (A3865-01). The UCSB IACUC has investigated and reviewed the incident. This report includes the summary of the incident, as well as any Committee corrective actions.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

