



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

September 14, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare
Assurance #A3283-01
(OLAW Case 3E-Revised)

Dr. Milan Mrksich,
Vice President for Research
Northwestern University
750 North Shore Drive, (b) (4)
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Mrksich,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 25, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Northwestern University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that between March 3, 2021 and May 7, 2021, 15 mice underwent surgical procedures with 14 of the animals found to have skin lesions due to inappropriate technique in fur removal prior to surgery leading to humane euthanasia. The study was supported by federal funding.

As a corrective measure, the protocol was amended to add flexibility of using clippers to remove fur and fur removal technique was reviewed with all lab members. In addition, lab members must be retrained on surgical site preparation and a step-by-step process for fur removal must be written and developed to be followed by all lab members.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by Northwestern University which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence. OLAW expects continuing post-approval monitoring to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance and potential associated animal welfare concern. We appreciate being informed of this matter and please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nicole L.
Lukovsky-
akhsanov -S

Digitally signed by Nicole
L. Lukovsky-akhsanov -S
Date: 2021.09.14
11:25:17 -04'00'

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

CC: IACUC contact

May 25, 2021

research@northwestern.edu
Office 847. 491. 3485

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM, Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
OLAW Division of Assurance
National Institutes of Health
Suite 360 MSC 7982
6700B Rockledge Dr., Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Dr. Morse:

I have been informed by the Northwestern University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (NU IACUC; Assurance # A3283-01) that a Principal Investigator (PI) reported to the NU IACUC an incident involving animals occurred. The project is supported by federal funds. The incident report is as follows:

Incident Description:

Fifteen mice underwent surgical procedures between March 3, 2021 and May 7, 2021. The animals were found with skin lesions due to inappropriate technique in fur removal prior to surgery. Fourteen of the animals were humanely euthanized and one animal fully recovered.

At the May 20, 2021 NU IACUC meeting, the Committee discussed these incidents and reviewed the PI's corrective action plan, which included the following elements:

- Amend protocol to add flexibility to use clippers for fur removal.
- Review appropriate fur removal technique with all laboratory members.

The Committee accepted the PI's plan, but implemented the following additional requirements:

- All laboratory members must attend retraining on surgical site preparation with a focus on fur removal processes.
- Develop a written step-by-step process for fur removal to be followed by all laboratory members.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Milan Mrksich, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Institutional Official

cc:

(b) (6)

C. Heckman, Chair, IACUC

(b) (6)

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 6:53 AM
To: VP Research
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Northwestern University 210525_001

Thank you. We will send a response soon.

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

From: VP Research <VP-Research@northwestern.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 10:30 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: CJ Heckman <c-heckman@northwestern.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Correspondence from Northwestern University 210525_001

Dear Dr. Morse,

Attached please find correspondence from Milan Mrksich, Vice President for Research, Northwestern University.

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