



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

May 6, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 9J]

Dr. Bill Yates
Acting Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
University of Pittsburgh
3500 Fifth Avenue, (b) (4) Hieber Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Yates,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 28, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on March 18, 2021, the animal facility staff found two live neonatal mice in a carcass barrel. The principal investigator's (PI) protocol specifies euthanasia via CO2 administration combined with cervical dislocation however the secondary method of euthanasia was not performed. The studies were funded by PHS.

As a corrective measure, the laboratory technician responsible received hands-on training and review of animal handling procedures, a lab meeting was held to reiterate the importance of compliance with applicable IACUC policies and the PI directed lab staff to allocate enough time to ensure task completion. In addition, the IACUC sent a letter of reprimand to the PI and the PI's supervisor. Additionally, the PI and lab staff will undergo training on protocol adherence and general IACUC compliance.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by the University of Pittsburgh 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: 2021.05.06 14:09:26
-04'00'

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

cc: IACUC contact



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of
Research Protections

A3187 - 9J

*Bill J. Yates, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
Professor of Otolaryngology & Neuroscience &
Clinical and Translational Science*

Suite 401, Hieber Building
3500 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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April 28, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh's Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to advise your office of a reportable incident¹.

On March 18, 2021, animal facility staff found two live neonate mice a carcass barrel in the animal facility. The investigator's protocol specified euthanasia via CO₂ administration combined with cervical dislocation, but the secondary method of euthanasia had not been performed.

The IACUC accepted the investigator's corrective action plan (CAP), which consisted of the following items:

1. On March 19th, the investigator's laboratory technician received hands-on training and review of animal handling procedures.
2. A lab zoom meeting to reiterate the importance of being in compliance with all IACUC policies on animal care, transfer, and euthanasia procedure took place on March 19th, wherein the investigator discussed the seriousness of the incident.
3. The investigator has directed lab staff to allocate sufficient time for their tasks to ensure that they are done correctly.

The investigator's research is funded by the following NIH grant:

5R01NS038118-17

Na-K-Cl Cotransporter in Cerebral Ischemia

¹ PHS Policy IV.B.7 & PHS Policy IV.C.1.g

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
April 28, 2021
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The IACUC levied the following sanctions

1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the investigator, and his/her supervisor regarding these events. This letter has been placed in our files.
2. The investigator and laboratory staff will undergo training on protocol adherence and general IACUC compliance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)


Bill J. Yates, PhD

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 7:24 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable Event Notices

Thank you for these reports, (b) (6) We will send responses soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 1:27 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: Reportable Event Notices

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of Bill J. Yates, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you!

(b) (6)

