



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

August 25, 2021

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

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

Dear Dr. Yates,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 23, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two mice died due to lack of food. The food hopper had not been filled when the animals were weaned by a postdoctoral fellow. The animal caretaker could not see the mice during the daily health check because they were hidden behind the food hopper.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the postdoctoral fellow responsible on weaning procedures and this individual will check each cage for the presence of food before leaving the animal facility. To prevent a recurrence, the food hopper will now be pre-filled with food and left in the hood where cages are processed for weaning. A letter of reprimand was issued to the investigator and supervisor.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of
Research Protections

A 3187-9M

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

(b) (4) Hieber Building
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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: (b) (6)
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August 23, 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 June 21, 2021, during a daily room check, a box containing two deceased mice was discovered without food. The food hopper was upside down inside the cage and had not been filled when the animals were weaned by a postdoctoral fellow during the afternoon of June 18. The mice were discovered behind the food hopper. Because of this obstructed view the cage appeared to be empty to animal care technicians checking the box.

The corrective actions taken in this case consisted of the following items:

1. The postdoc's workflow has been evaluated and reconfigured, and he has been retrained in weaning procedures.
2. Going forward, food hoppers will always be pre-filled with food and left in the hood until being replaced in the cage prior to placing the cage back in the rack. This will provide a clear indication if a cage is missing food as the hopper would be visible in the hood instead of in the cage.
3. Additionally, the postdoc will visually check each cage being weaned from or weaned to, verifying that each has food, before leaving the animal facility.

The investigator's research is supported by the following NIH grants:

5R01AI043603-21

Murine Memory B Cell Development and Function

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
August 23, 2021
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4R37AI118841-06	Investigating How TLR7 Activates and TLR9 Regulates Systemic Autoimmunity
5R01AI105018-07	Signaling and Selection in Germinal Center B Cells
1R21AI154267-01A1	Exploring the Role of Long Noncoding RNAs in Germinal Center B cells

The IACUC levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter of reprimand was sent to the investigator and his supervisors regarding this event. This letter has been placed in our files.

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: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:04 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: University of Pittsburgh

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

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:50 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: University of Pittsburgh

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

