



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

January 14, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 90]

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 December 20, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the University of Pittsburgh Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to adhere to institutional policies/procedures. The final report states during a semiannual review by the IACUC, it was noted an investigator's lab staff performed CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia on mice without employing a flow meter to regulate displacement of the gas to the required rate. It is understood the investigator has stopped using this method and will perform the procedure per AVMA standards.

The IACUC has approved the investigator's corrective action plan, which includes the following:

- The investigator has met with a veterinarian to explore strategies that would both allow addressing all research aims while remaining within compliance.
- The investigator has placed an order for a small induction chamber. Once received, the chamber will be equipped with a regulator set to the required displacement rate.

Per the report, a letter of reprimand was sent to the investigator and his supervisors regarding this event. Also, it is noted this research is supported by PHS funding.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Pittsburgh has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn  
T. Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by  
Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S  
Date: 2022.01.14  
15:05:49 -05'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM  
Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



University of  
Pittsburgh

Office of  
Research Protections

A3187-90

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  
Phone: 412-647-9614  
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Email: vcorp@pitt.edu

December 20, 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 incident<sup>1</sup>.

During the IACUC's recent semi-annual review, it was noted that an investigator's lab staff performed CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia on mice without employing a flow meter to regulate displacement of the gas to the required rate. While there was no sign of lung pathology due to incorrect CO<sub>2</sub> administration, the displacement of the gas was not regulated. The investigator has ceased using this method and will perform the procedure according to AVMA standards.

The IACUC approved the investigator's corrective action plan, which included the following items:

1. The investigator has met with a veterinarian to explore strategies that would both allow addressing all research aims while remaining within compliance.
2. The investigator has placed an order for a small induction chamber. Once received, the chamber will be equipped with a regulator set to the required displacement rate.

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

261201600022I-P00001-759101900130-1 Analytical Support and Pk Sample Analysis for  
Preclinical Pharmacology Studies

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<sup>1</sup> PHS Policy IV.C.1.g

The IACUC levied the following sanction:

- 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)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey box, covering the signature and any handwritten notes.

Bill J. Yates, PhD

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 8:15 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 responses soon.  
Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 8:01 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] University of Pittsburgh

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

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

(b) (6)