



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 9P]

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: mice lacking access to food. The final report states on October 18, 2021, three boxes with 8 adult mice were discovered in the animal facility without access to food. Seven animals were found dead, a surviving mouse was provided supportive care, but ultimately was euthanized by laboratory personnel. It is understood the investigator's lab personnel did not provide food when the boxes were setup on October 15th. Also, animal facility staff did not identify the lack of food until October 18th. The following corrective action plans were provided by the animal facility and investigator and approved by the IACUC:

- All facility staff members were retrained on the proper way to conduct health, food, and water checks. Each check is to be completed separate from the others so the tech can concentrate on one item at a time.
- Since the accidental loss, the investigator has been placing "Recently Weaned" tags on each cage that is weaned.
- The investigator has created a task checklist, including food supply, for animal breeding work so that tasks aren't missed.
- The investigator will assign two workers (rather than one) to execute all animal work.

It is noted that 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
15:01:58 -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

A3187-9P

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

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Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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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 incident¹.

On October 18, 2021, three boxes containing eight adult mice were found in the animal facility without access to food. Seven of the mice were deceased upon discovery. The surviving mouse was provided with supportive care and was later humanely euthanized by the investigator's laboratory personnel. The investigator's lab personnel did not provide food when the boxes were set up on October 15 and animal facility staff did not detect the lack of food until October 18.

The IACUC approved the animal facility and the investigator's corrective action plans, which included the following items:

1. All facility staff members were retrained on the proper way to conduct health, food, and water checks. Each check is to be completed separate from the others so the tech can concentrate on one item at a time.
2. Since the accidental loss, the investigator has been placing "Recently Weaned" tags on each cage that is weaned.
3. The investigator has created a task checklist, including food supply, for animal breeding work so that tasks aren't missed.
4. The investigator will assign two workers (rather than one) to execute all animal work.

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.d

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

R01-HL142997-03	Epigenetic Modulation in Septic Immunosuppression
R01-HL149719-02	Role of TACC2 in smoking-induced COPD

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)

Bill J. Yates, PhD

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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)