



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 19, 2022

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

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 May 2, 2022 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 10, 2022, a veterinarian in the animal facility issued an order to euthanize mice infected with fungus *C. albicans* that had become unexpectedly very ill. The investigator was contacted, who then informed a postdoc in the lab to make sure that the mice were sacrificed before the end of the day, but the postdoc forgot to do so. Three mice were found dead the next morning. The associated animal activity was PHS-funded.

OLAW understands that the IACUC approved the corrective action plan submitted by the investigator for the incident, which included the following items:

1. The investigator met with the postdoc responsible and other lab members to discuss the whole event and violation to make sure that this does not happen again.
2. The investigator submitted an IACUC modification to remove personnel who are no longer in the lab from the emergency contact list and to add current lab members to this list.

The IACUC levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter was sent to the investigator regarding the event.
2. The investigator and laboratory staff will undergo training on the importance of following the instructions of the institution's veterinarians.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -

S

Brent C. Morse, DVM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2022.05.19 15:16:17
-04'00'

cc: IACUC contact



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of
Research Protections

A3187-9V

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: 412-383-0131
Fax: 412-648-4010
Email: vcorp@pitt.edu

May 2, 2022

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 10, 2022, a veterinarian in the animal facility issued an order for the investigator's lab technician to euthanize mice infected with fungus *C. albicans* that had become unexpectedly very ill. The lab technician was home sick that day and other personnel listed on the protocol could not be contacted, as they no longer work in the investigator's lab. The investigator was subsequently contacted, who then informed a postdoc in the lab to make sure that the mice were sacrificed before the end of the day, but the postdoc forgot to do so. Three mice were found dead the next morning by animal facility personnel.

The IACUC approved the corrective action plan submitted by the investigator for the incident, which included the following items:

1. The investigator met with the postdoc responsible and other lab members to discuss the whole event and violation to make sure that this does not happen again.
2. The investigator asked the postdoc to review the IACUC protocol again and report to the investigator with any questions.
3. The investigator submitted an IACUC modification to remove personnel who are no longer in the lab from the emergency contact list and to add current lab members to this list.

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.c

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM

May 2, 2022

Page 2

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

5R01AI142354-03	Mechanisms of neutrophil dysfunction in antifungal immunity
5R21AI159058-02	Mechanisms of renal protection against disseminated candidiasis

The IACUC levied the following sanctions:

1. A letter was sent to the investigator regarding the event.
2. The investigator and laboratory staff will undergo training on the importance of following the instructions of this institution's veterinarians.

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, May 6, 2022 7:47 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Reportable Event Notice

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, May 4, 2022 1:38 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reportable Event Notice

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

(b) (6)