



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

February 2, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3823-01 [OLAW Case 9Y]

Dr. Mary Dickinson  
Vice President and Dean of Research  
Baylor College of Medicine  
One Baylor Plaza, BCM335  
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Dickinson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 25, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event involving a research mouse at Baylor College of Medicine. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse undergoing an approved surgery was injured when the electrocautery unit ignited residual oxygen remaining in the air line. Staff and equipment were not impacted by the flame.

The corrective action consisted of euthanizing the mouse. The incident was reviewed by a veterinarian and it was determined that procedures had been carried out correctly and the matter constituted an unforeseen adverse event.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that no corrective measures needed to be implemented to address this unexpected event. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature] (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact



A3823-9Y  
OFFICE OF RESEARCH

One Baylor Plaza, BCM310  
Houston, Texas 77030-3411

(713) 798 – 2104  
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**CONFIDENTIAL**

January 25, 2022

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
olawdco@mail.nih.gov

RE: Assurance #D16-00475

Dear Dr. Morse,

As Institutional Official for Baylor College of Medicine, I am reporting an accident resulting in harm to one laboratory research mouse. On January 11, 2022, a research investigator was performing a mammary tumor implant in the central animal facility surgical suite when a small flame appeared under the surgical drape. The oxygen had been turned off, but the residual air in the line was ignited by the electrocautery tool being used for the procedure. The mouse was injured and subsequently euthanized appropriately at the recommendation of a clinical veterinarian. The investigator was not injured and there was no further damage from the flame.

The same procedures have been observed by a clinical veterinarian and were conducted without incident. A clinical veterinarian reviewed this incident with the investigator and confirmed that appropriate procedures using oxygen are in place and followed. The event was reported to the Attending Veterinarian and to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Chair. The IACUC reviewed the details and determined that this was an isolated, unforeseeable event that constituted neither non-compliance nor a serious deviation from *The Guide*.

This incident is being reported to you as well as AAALAC International.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Mary Dickinson, PhD  
Sr. Vice President and Dean of Research  
Institutional Official  
Baylor College of Medicine

cc: Research Compliance Services files

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2022 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: OLAW Report- Assurance D16-00475

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a reply soon.

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

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 5:37 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OLAW Report- Assurance D16-00475

**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.

Dear Dr. Morse,

Please find the attached notification sent on behalf of Dr. Mary Dickinson, Institutional Official.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)