



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  
A3377-01 [OLAW Case 8U]

Dr. David P. Norton  
Vice President for Research  
University of Florida  
(b) (4) Grinter Hall  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500

Dear Dr. Norton,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 16, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Florida. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that five mice died due to lack of food. Food was not provided by laboratory staff at weaning and the problem was not noted during the daily health check.

The corrective action consisted of terminating the animal caretaker involved.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of this problem. While OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, we note two things: 1) Although this incident is certainly adverse, it is considered a noncompliance. 2) While the animal caretaker failed to perform the daily health check appropriately, the laboratory staff must be held accountable as well, especially if food was not placed in the cage at weaning. All staff involved with animals need to be responsible for ensuring welfare and checking for food/water where applicable.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

213377-8u



Office of the Vice President for Research

223 Grinter Hall  
PO Box 115500  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5500  
352-392-1582  
352-392-9605 Fax

December 16, 2021

Axel Wolff, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The University of Florida, in accordance with Assurance D16-00244 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an adverse event regarding failure to provide food and inadequate husbandry/ health checks that led to animal death. A preliminary report was not sent in regards to this adverse event.

Five mice were weaned by the laboratory staff into a single cage on October 27, 2021. Between October 27, 2021 and November 2, 2021, an Animal Care Services (ACS) technician performed animal well-being and room checks (the same technician performed all checks on the mice affected). On November 3, 2021, the cage was found by an ACS manager to be without food, and the 5 mice were found dead. Necropsies by an ACS veterinarian showed general lack of ingesta in gastrointestinal tract and significant autolysis.

The IACUC full committee voted on December 7, 2021 that this incident was an adverse event and was reportable through the IO to regulatory agencies. The following corrective actions have been implemented:

- The technician involved in the incident was terminated by ACS.

This study is funded by the following grant:

- National Institutes of Health: R01HL138931- *Pannexin-1 signaling in abdominal aortic aneurysms*

The NIH funding components have been notified of the adverse event.

The University of Florida is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Daniel R. Brown, Ph.D., IACUC Chair.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

David Norton, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research  
Institutional Official

(b) (6)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 7:43 AM  
**To:** Research - IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Reportable adverse event (2021Nov02) [ ref:\_00D412ElGo.\_5001K14h9gj:ref ]

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

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

**From:** Research - IACUC <iacuc-crm@research.ufl.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 12:53 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** drbrown@ufl.edu; mmahoney@ufl.edu; Ortiz, Shelia (NIH/NHLBI) [E] <ortizs@nhlbi.nih.gov>; tolunaye@nhlbi.nih.gov  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reportable adverse event (2021Nov02) [ ref:\_00D412ElGo.\_5001K14h9gj:ref ]

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To All Concerned,

Please see the attached report of an adverse event from the University of Florida (D16-00244). A preliminary report was not sent in regards to this adverse event.

The protocol involved in this adverse event is funded by the NIH and the applicable program official and grants management specialist are cc'd on this email.

Please acknowledge receipt and let me know if you have any questions.

(b) (6)

