



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

June 17, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3118-01 (OLAW Case 1X)

Dr. Susan Martinis
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(b) (4) Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Dr. Martinis,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of a June 15, 2021 letter, signed by Josh Gulley, IACUC Chair, reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The letter supplements the information in the telephone prompt report on June 3, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on May 12, 2021, the IACUC convened a meeting and voted unanimously to suspend all study protocols and associated activities for one principal investigator for a period of one year from May 19, 2021 until May 18, 2022 due to failure to maintain proper attention to, and oversight of, animal use activities in his laboratory and recurring noncompliance. The recent issue stemmed from his laboratory personnel performing experiments involving injection of transgenic constructs into fish eggs. Those eggs subsequently hatched, and the resulting fish were allowed to develop and were being maintained. These animal use activities were not described or approved previously under his active protocol and they also did not have required Institutional Biosafety protocols in place. The care and maintenance of the animals was transferred to the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) until the suspension has been lifted or a suitable alternative arrangement can be made. At the conclusion of the suspension, the PI will be under a probationary period of 3 years.

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. Please be sure to report the suspension of any PHS-funded protocol to the funding component. Also, as the Institutional Official, please sign or acknowledge all final reports to OLAW. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse

-S
Date: 2021.06.17 15:42:40 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact



Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
114 Observatory, MC-193
901 S. Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801-3609

Brent Morse
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

June 15, 2021

Dear Dr. Morse:

I am writing to follow-up on our phone conversation from June 3, 2021 when I gave you a preliminary report of our Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)'s actions concerning a Principal Investigator at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign named Justin S. Rhodes.

On May 12, 2021, the IACUC convened a meeting to discuss information about animal use activities that had been provided by Professor Rhodes in response to queries from reviewers who were evaluating a new protocol application. Professor Rhodes revealed that he and/or his laboratory personnel had performed experiments involving injection of transgenic constructs into fish eggs, these eggs subsequently hatched, and the resulting fish were allowed to develop and were being maintained. These animal use activities were not described or approved previously under his active protocol 18071 and they also did not have a required Institutional Biosafety protocols in place. This activity therefore represented a significant protocol deviation of a serious nature.

In its discussion of this unapproved animal use, the IACUC noted that Professor Rhodes was previously suspended from all animal use activities in June 2017 due to a repeated failure to address deviations and other issues for a study in mice, as well as a failure to engage effective safeguards to avoid future missteps. That suspension was lifted in September 2017. The IACUC noted the current incident represented a resumption of Professor Rhodes' failure to maintain proper attention to, and oversight of, animal use activities in your laboratory.

The IACUC voted unanimously to suspend all study protocols and associated activities for which Professor Rhodes serves as principal investigator for a period of one year from May 19, 2021 until May 18, 2022. The care and maintenance of the animals on Professor Rhodes' currently active protocols was transferred to the Division of Animal Resources (DAR) until the suspension has been lifted or a suitable alternative arrangement can be made. The IACUC also prohibited Professor Rhodes from engaging in animal use activities as personnel on protocols for which other University faculty serve as principal investigator.

At the conclusion of the suspension, Professor Rhodes will be under a probationary period of 3 years. A significant protocol deviation during this time will put Professor Rhodes at risk of a permanent ban from all animal use activities on the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus. The IACUC informed

Professor Rhodes that if he desired earlier reinstatement of his privileges to perform research with animals, that request must be made in writing after 6 months of the suspension (November 18, 2021).

Please note that the final decision to suspend Professor Rhodes was done in consultation with our Institutional Official (IO), Dr. Susan Martinis.

Please contact me if you have additional questions about the actions that were taken by our IACUC.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Josh Gulley, IACUC Chair

Cc: Susan A. Martinis, Institutional Official (IO) and Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 7:37 AM
To: Gulley, Joshua M
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report of PI suspension

Thank you for this report, Dr. Gulley. We will send a response soon. If the suspended project was PHS or NSF-supported, please also notify the funding component.

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

From: Gulley, Joshua M <jgulley@illinois.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:02 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: IACUC <iacuc@illinois.edu>; Martinis, Susan A <martinis@illinois.edu>
Subject: Report of PI suspension

Dear Dr. Morse,
Please find attached our final report of a PI suspension of animal use activities at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Sincerely,
Josh

JOSHUA M GULLEY

Chair and Director

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) | Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR)
iacuc.illinois.edu

Professor

Department of Psychology | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
www.psychology.illinois.edu/people/jgulley

Affiliate

Neuroscience Program | Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
neuroscience.illinois.edu | www.igb.illinois.edu

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Psychology Building | 603 E. Daniel Street | M/C 515 | Champaign, IL 61820
(b) (6) | fax: (b) (6) | jgulley@illinois.edu



Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 6/3/2021

Time: 3:40

Name of Person reporting: Josh Kelly, IACUC Chair

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: U. of Illinois – Urbana Champagne

Assurance number: A3118

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? yes

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): working on it

PI on zebrafish protocol (not PHS \$) had animal research privileges suspended for one year. Also was Co-PI on a NIH-funded mouse protocol. Attempted to raise transgenic zebrafish without IACUC approval.

Species involved: zebrafish

Personnel involved: PI

Dates and times:

Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known):

Brent briefed them on contacting granting Institute at NIH.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

< 60 days

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case #