



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) 480-3387

June 13, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3922-01 [OLAW Case 2V]

Mr. Michael Henderson
Vice President of Research Administration
Rhode Island Hospital
1 Hoppin St., (b) (4)
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Mr. Henderson,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 31, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event involving research rats at Rhode Island Hospital. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that water was leaking from the ceiling in three animal rooms and entered three rat cages, affecting seven animals. The source of the water was identified as being the humidifier steam traps in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of removing the rats from the wet cages and drying them, however, the Principal Investigator directed euthanasia to prevent colony contamination. The corrective actions consisted of replacing all steam traps in the HVAC system and including inspection of the traps during preventive maintenance.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC contact



Lifespan

Office of Research Administration

Administrative Office for the Animal Welfare Committee
167 Point St, Suite 1A Providence, RI 02903
Phone: 401-444-2093 Fax: 401-444-7960

**Rhode Island Hospital
The Miriam Hospital**

May 31, 2022

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982

RE: Animal Welfare Incident at Rhode Island Hospital (Institutional Assurance No: A3922-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

I am writing to report an unanticipated problem involving the animal housing facility at our institution. The incident impacted animals on a PHS funded project (R01 HD024455).

In brief, on Monday, 4/25/22 animal care staff entered the animal facility and found water leaking from above the ceiling into 3 animal rooms. Three rat cages containing 7 young adult rats were partially filled with water. The staff removed the animals from the flooded cages and dried them off. The leak was later identified as coming from the humidifier steam traps in the HVAC system.

Although the animals were quickly dried and otherwise appeared to be in good health, the Principal Investigator ultimately elected to euthanize them to eliminate the risk of contaminating the remainder of the colony, which is a genetically modified strain not easily replaced.

Per policy, the incident was investigated by a subcommittee of the IACUC. The subcommittee's report was reviewed at the normally convened May 25 meeting of the full IACUC, which voted to accept the findings of the subcommittee, and implement the following corrective action plan:

- Replace all steam traps in the humidifier system.
- Include trap inspection and/or replacement in preventive maintenance program.

Sincerely, , ,

(b) (6)

Michael B. Henderson, JD, LL.M, MS
Vice President, Office of Research
Lifespan Institutional IO

cc: (b) (6) NIH grant officers Chantell Stevenson-Brown and John Ileakis

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 7:13 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Animal Welfare Facility Incident- D16-00532

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

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:57 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal Welfare Facility Incident- D16-00532

Good morning,
Enclosed please find a report from our IO regarding a recent unanticipated problem at our facility.
Please contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you

(b) (6)

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Ileakis, John (NIH/NICHD) [E]
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:32 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Stevenson-Brown, Chantell (NIH/NICHD) [E]
Subject: FW: Animal Welfare Facility Incident- Grant R01 HD024455
Attachments: OLAW_Letter_flood.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom It May concern:

Attached is an animal welfare incident report sent by a grantee institution. Please let me know if you need my assistance.

Thank you,

John V. Ileakis, PhD
Program Director, Maternal & Fetal Molecular Biology and Genetics,
Pregnancy & Perinatology Branch,
dbGaP Genomic Policy Administrator & Chair of Data Access Committee,
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,
National Institutes of Health
Room 2317D, 6710B Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

[For U.S. Postal Mail replace the last two lines with Bldg. 6710B-MSC 7002, 9000
Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892-7510]

Phone: 301-435-6895
Fax: 301-496-3790
Email: ileakisj@mail.nih.gov

From: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Stevenson-Brown, Chantell (NIH/NICHD) [E] <chantell.stevenson-brown@nih.gov>; Ileakis, John (NIH/NICHD) [E] <ileakisj@mail.nih.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Animal Welfare Facility Incident- Grant R01 HD024455

Good morning,
Enclosed please find a letter to OLAW regarding an incident of non-compliance at our institution.
The work was supported in part with funding from NIH.

Title of Grant: Novel Approaches to Understanding the Nutrient Regulation of Fetal Somatic Growth
Grant No.: R01 HD024455
PI: Dr. Jennifer Sanders

Please contact me if you have any questions.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 7:57 AM
To: olawdco@mail.nih.gov
Subject: Animal Welfare Facility Incident- D16-00532

Good morning,
Enclosed please find a report from our IO regarding a recent unanticipated problem at our facility.
Please contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you