



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
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FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
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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

DATE: January 4, 2022

TO: Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.  
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (NHLBI #34-21) – Animal Welfare Assurance A4149-01  
[Case 16C]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 9, 2021 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on November 5, 2021, a rabbit was given ketamine prior to euthanasia and tissue harvest. The tech was distracted and left the room and returned to find the animal dead. The technician self-reported this incident to an Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) member who notified the Animal Program Director (APD) the same day. The NIH Office of Animal Care and Use was notified on the same day.

The incident was reviewed and additional training was provided to the technician along with direct supervision by a member of the animal program staff.

After ACUC discussion, the additional training and period of supervision was found acceptable.

The conclusions and actions by the NHLBI ACUC are found to be reasonable and accepted by OLAW. OLAW agrees that this incident was reportable. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

**Brent C. Morse** -

Digitally signed by Brent C.  
Morse -S

**S**

Date: 2022.01.04 14:21:00  
-05'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM

Director

Division of Compliance Oversight

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny  
Dr. Richard Wyatt  
Dr. Elizabeth Murphy, Chair, NHLBI ACUC

A 4149-14C



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

[www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)

December 9, 2021

TO: Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigations - Assurance D16-00602 (NHLBI 34-21)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) ACUC in accordance with Assurance A4149-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The animal incident involved a noncompliance of the animal program's monitoring protocol for rabbit anesthesia. The failure of a research technician to appropriately monitor an anesthetized rabbit may have contributed to its death before the initiation of the ACUC-approved experimental procedure.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NHLBI Attending Veterinarian on November 5, 2021.

Please contact me or Dr. Stephen Denny, Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, if additional information or clarifications are required.

Michael M.  
Gottesman -S  
Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Digitally signed by  
Michael M. Gottesman -S  
Date: 2021.12.09  
17:54:46 -05'00'

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt  
Dr. Murphy  
Dr. Denny



National Institutes of Health  
National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

December 9, 2021

TO: Michael M. Gottesman, M.D., Deputy Director for Intramural Research

FROM: Dr. Elizabeth 'Tish' Murphy, Chair, NHLBI ACUC

SUBJECT: Animal Incident Report

In accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3, the NHLBI ACUC provides this report of an incident that occurred involving the care and use of animals in biomedical research

Summary of Incident

On November 5, 2021, a rabbit was given ketamine prior to euthanasia and tissue harvest. The tech was distracted and left the room and returned to find the animal dead. The technician self-reported this incident to an Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) member who notified the Animal Program Director (APD) the same day. The NIH Office of Animal Care and Use was notified on the same day. The ACUC Chair was out of town at that time and the Chair and ACUC were notified at the November 10, 2021 meeting.

The incident was reviewed by the APD and additional training was provided to the technician along with direct supervision by a member of the animal program staff.

At the December 8, 2021 NHLBI ACUC meeting a report was given along with the corrective actions.

Corrective Action

After ACUC discussion, the additional training and period of supervision was found acceptable. The incident is to be reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use.

Elizabeth Murphy -S<sup>5</sup>  
Digitally signed by Elizabeth Murphy -  
Date: 2021.12.08 15:56:33 -05'00'

Elizabeth 'Tish' Murphy

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:45 AM  
**To:** Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NHLBI 34-21)

Thank you for this report, Dr. Denny. We will send a response soon.  
Axel Wolff

**From:** Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:53 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NHLBI 34-21)

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached reports from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute ACUC address an animal incident involving a technician's failure to follow the animal program's monitoring protocol for rabbit anesthesia. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NHLBI Attending Veterinarian on November 5, 2021.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or at the phone number listed below. Thank you, Steve

STEPHEN DENNY, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM | Director, Office of Animal Care and Use | NIH Bethesda Campus, Building 31/Room B1C37 |  
Phone: (301) 435-2188 | *NIH . . . Turning Discovery Into Health* |