



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 20892-7982
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: May 19, 2022

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

FROM: Director
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (NCI #13-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16Q]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 11, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Cancer Institute. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on April 7, 2022, a group of 11 cages of mice were noted to have no observations documented post-surgery on the cage cards. Per the protocol the mice were to receive bupivacaine at the incision, carprofen orally and buprenorphine SR subcutaneously as the analgesic regimen for this surgery. Additionally, the investigator staff were to observe the mice post surgically for pain and record these observations daily for three days post-surgery on the back of the cage card. In email communication with the Principal Investigator and laboratory staff it was determined that while the mice underwent an approved major survival surgery (orthotopic pancreatic cell transplant), the staff did not provide the approved analgesics. Instead, the mice were given lidocaine at the incision and meloxicam orally; neither drug was approved in the protocol. No buprenorphine was provided as their bottle was expired, no bupivacaine was provided at the incision and no oral carprofen was provided. Additionally, the staff did not record their post-surgical observations on the cage card, although they stated that this did occur. These deviations from the approved ACUC protocol meant that mice underwent surgery without the approved analgesic regime and likely experienced unrelieved post-surgical pain.

Corrective and preventive actions included the PI apologizing, and discussing these issues with his staff. Furthermore, they have stopped all surgery on the protocol and will modify their protocol to add meloxicam.

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. OLAW suggests that, when the surgeries are restarted, initial enhanced oversight of post-surgical care by the ACUC may be warranted. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Page 2 -- Dr. Gottesman
May 19, 2022
OLAW Case A4149-16Q

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse
-S
Date: 2022.05.19 15:44:55 -04'00'

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

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny
Dr. Richard Wyatt
Remy Bosselut, M.D., Ph.D., Chair, NCI ACUC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

May 11, 2022

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 (NCI 13-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved the failure to record post-operative monitoring observations and provide post-surgery analgesics as outlined in the ACUC-approved animal study proposal. Eleven cages of mice were involved.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NCI Attending Veterinarian on April 22, 2022.

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

Digitally signed by Michael M.
Gottesman -S
Date: 2022.05.11 11:26:33 -0400

Michael M. Gottesman, M.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Bosselut
Dr. Denny



National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Laboratory of Immune Cell Biology
Bldg. 37, Room 3016
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Phone: 240 760-6866
Fax: 240 541-4483
E-Mail: bosselur@mail.nih.gov

Date: 5/9/2022

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

From: Rémy Bosselut, M.D., Ph.D.
ACUC Chair, NCI

Subject: Reportable Animal Incident: Post-operative Monitoring and Analgesia

On April 7th, 2022, a group of 11 cages of mice were noted to have no observation documented post-survival surgery on the cage cards. Per the Animal Care and Use Committee- (ACUC) approved, protocol the mice were to receive bupivacaine at the incision, carprofen orally and buprenorphine SR subcutaneously as the analgesic regimen for this surgery. Additionally, the investigator staff were to observe the mice post surgically for pain, and record these observations daily for three days post-surgery on the back of the cage card. In email communication with the Principal Investigator and laboratory staff it was determined that while the mice underwent an approved major survival surgery (orthotopic pancreatic cell transplant), the staff did not provide the approved analgesics. Instead, the mice were given lidocaine at the incision and meloxicam orally; neither drug was approved in the protocol. No buprenorphine was provided as their bottle was expired, no bupivacaine was provided at the incision and no oral carprofen was provided. Additionally, the staff did not record their post-surgical observations on the cage card, although they stated that this did occur. These deviations from the approved ACUC protocol meant that mice underwent surgery without the approved analgesic regime and likely experienced unrelieved post-surgical pain, furthermore, no documentation of post-surgery observations occurred.

In response to these events the PI apologized, acknowledged that significant protocol violations occurred, and has discussed these issues with his staff. Furthermore, they have stopped all surgery on the protocol until the ACUC has investigated the matter and will modify their protocol to add meloxicam.

These actions represent animal use that was not approved by the ACUC and resulted in inadequate analgesia after a major surgical procedure. They necessitated the Attending Veterinarian to report this incident to the ACUC Chair and the Office of Animal Care and Use on April 22, 2022. This issue was discussed at the NCI ACUC Semiannual meeting on April 27, 2022; the committee approved the corrective measures and report of the incident to OLAW.

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

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Rémy Bosselut, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair, NCI ACUC

Cc: Tom Misteli, Ph.D.
Glenn Merlino, Ph.D.
Joshua Kramer, D.V.M., M.S.

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 7:57 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NCI 13-22)

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 1:30 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Smith, Heather (NIH/OD) [E] <heather.smith@nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NCI 13-22)

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) address an animal incident involving the failure of a research team to record post-operative monitoring observations and provide post-surgery analgesics to mice as outlined in the pertinent ACUC-approved animal study proposal. The incident was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NCI Attending Veterinarian on April 22, 2022.

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* |