



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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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 #14-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 16R]

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, three cages of mice were noted to have hunched postures, stilted gait [sic], generalized dermatitis, and rough hair coats. The humane end points approved on the protocol state that mice will be immediately euthanized if they develop a hunched posture or exhibit a rough hair coat. The mice were beyond these end points and consequently this represents activity that was not approved and affects the animals' welfare. Second, in discussion with the investigator staff it was also noted that these mice were part of a survival study, experimental end point of 90 days post-procedure. This was not clearly described in the protocol; additionally, when observed by the ACUC members, the mice were already beyond the 90-day end point. Finally, three of the mice had been re-injected with a cell line, a procedure that was also not approved by the ACUC.

Corrective and preventive actions included that the Principal Investigator: (i) has reiterated to his staff to strictly follow the humane and experimental end points as described in the approved ACUC protocol, and (ii) has agreed to modify the protocol based on a meeting with the Attending Veterinarian, and to not perform activities that are not approved by the ACUC.

The actions taken to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. OLAW suggests that all members of the lab responsible for animal procedures have access to the approved ASP. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse –S

Digitally signed by Brent C.
Morse -S
Date: 2022.05.19 16:01:39 -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 14-22)

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 follow ACUC approved humane endpoint actions and the conduct of non-ACUC approved animal activities. Three 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 11:26:12 -04'00'

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: 5/10/2022

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: Use of Unapproved Endpoints and Procedures

On April 7th, 2022, three cages of mice maintained under an NCI Animal Care and Use Committee- (ACUC) approved animal study protocol were noted to have a hunched posture, stilted cage, generalized dermatitis, and a rough hair coat. Upon investigation, several off-protocol activities were determined to have occurred. First, the humane end points approved on the protocol states that mice will be immediately euthanized if they develop a hunched posture or exhibit a rough hair coat. The mice were beyond these end points and consequently this represents activity that was not approved and affects the animals' welfare. Second, in discussion with the investigator staff it was also noted that these mice were part of a survival study, experimental end point of 90 days post CAR-T cell therapy. This was not clearly described in the protocol; additionally, when observed by the ACUC members, the mice were already beyond the 90-day end point. Finally, three of the mice had been re-injected with a cell line, a procedure that was also not approved by the ACUC.

The Principal Investigator stated errors had occurred and the PI has: (i) reiterated to his staff to strictly follow the humane and experimental end points as described in the approved ACUC protocol, and (ii) agreed to modify the protocol based on a meeting with the Attending Veterinarian, and to not perform activities that are not approved by the ACUC.

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 8:00 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NCI 14-22)

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 1:39 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 14-22)

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 follow humane endpoint procedures as outlined in the pertinent ACUC-approved animal study proposal involving mice. 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* |