



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

February 3, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A4555-01 (OLAW Case S)

Dr. Edward A. Jones  
President and CEO  
Houston Methodist Research Institute  
6670 Bertner Street, R12  
Houston, TX 77030

Dear Dr. Jones,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 25, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Houston Methodist Research Institute. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Houston Methodist Research Institute Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failed euthanasia of animals. The final report states on January 10, 2022, the Attending Veterinarian was notified that adult and neonatal mice were placed in the carcass refrigerator without a secondary physical method having been applied. The animals were not deceased.

It is understood the owner of the mice is unknown and it is also unknown who performed the euthanasia procedure. In response to the incident, the IACUC reviewed and approved the following corrective actions:

- Mandatory retraining of all animal users in euthanasia procedures.
- Revision of the SOP for rodent euthanasia to include labeling of carcass bags with the name of the person performing the procedure, the IACUC-approved protocol number, and the date and time of euthanasia.
- A camera will be installed in the room with the refrigerator to ensure future noncompliance can be identified.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Houston Methodist Research Institute has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn T. Tubbs -S  
Date: 2022.02.03 11:50:44 -05:00

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM  
Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

A 4555-S



6670 Bertner Ave.  
Houston, Texas 77030  
www.houstonmethodist.org

January 25, 2022

**VIA EMAIL:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) [<mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov>]

Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance # A4555-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

This is an initial and final report for a concern submitted to the Houston Methodist Research Institute's (HMRI) IACUC Chair on 1/10/2022 by the Attending Veterinarian (AV) regarding the non-compliance with approved euthanasia procedures involving rodents in the animal use area.

On 1/10/2022, a Comparative Medicine Program (CMP) staff member reported to the AV after having noted two incidents where adult and neonate mice were placed in the carcass refrigerator without a secondary physical method having been applied. The animals were not deceased.

The owner of the animals is unknown and the individual who conducted the procedure is unknown. The IACUC Chair, Vice Chair, AV, and Director of the Office of Research Protections (ORP) met to discuss these incidents. A corrective action was proposed to include:

1. Mandatory re-training for all animal users in euthanasia procedures.
2. Revision of the SOP for rodent euthanasia to include labeling of carcass bags with the name of the person performing the procedure, the IACUC approved protocol number, and the date and time of euthanasia.
3. A camera will be installed in the room with the refrigerator to ensure future non-compliance can be identified.

This corrective action plan was presented to the IACUC at a convened meeting on 1/25/2022 where the committee accepted the corrective action and had no additional requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
(b) (6)  
B75B08EA9519405...

Edward A. Jones  
Institutional Official  
President & CEO  
The Methodist Hospital Research Institute

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 7:06 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of Non-Compliance for D16-00788 (A4555-01)

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

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

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Report of Non-Compliance for D16-00788 (A4555-01)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

OLAW DCO,

Please find attached a report of non-compliance from the Institutional Official of Houston Methodist Research Institute.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

Houston Methodist. Leading Medicine.

*U.S. News & World Report* has named Houston Methodist Hospital the Best Hospital in Texas for 10 years in a row. Houston Methodist is the No. 1 hospital in Texas and No. 16 in the nation. For more than 100 years, Houston Methodist has provided the best — and safest — clinical care, advanced technology and patient experience. That is our promise of leading medicine.

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