



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

May 9, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3290-01 (OLAW Case 2G)

Dr. Emmanuel Giannelis
Vice President for Research and Innovation
Weill Medical College of Cornell University
1300 York Avenue, LC-708
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Gannelis,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 14, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Cornell University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on November 18, 2021, seven mice were found in an unapproved housing location without a source of water waiting for euthanasia. Mice were hunched, dehydrated and ataxic. Mice were provided supportive care including wet food, nutri gel and water and the veterinarian contacted the Principal Investigator (PI) to ensure the mice were attended to immediately. On November 19, 2021, the same cages of mice were found in the procedure location and the PI was contacted by the veterinarian about the animals' status and distinction between animal housing and procedure spaces. The veterinarian confirmed that the mice were euthanized. This study was PHS funded.

As a corrective measure, the PI was reminded to adhere to provisions of the protocol including standards of daily care and that mice cannot be housed in a procedure location without IACUC approval. The PI was instructed to remind staff of the same concerns. The veterinarian and facility manager met with the PI and one of the lab members to discuss details of the study and importance of provision of water to mice. Veterinary staff were assured that mice will be provided with water and the lab understands the issues related to the non-compliance and plans to exercise increased diligence.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter at Cornell University which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. With respect to this non-compliance, OLAW strongly recommends continuing post-approval monitoring and training to prevent recurrence and associated animal welfare concerns. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and please contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact



Cornell University
Office of
Research Integrity and Assurance

395 Pine Tree Road, Suite 320
Ithaca, NY 14850
Phone: 607-255-2214
Fax: 607-255-0758
Email: iacuc@cornell.edu
www.oria.cornell.edu

February 14, 2022

Axel Wolff, MS, DVM, DACLAM
Deputy Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

Animal Welfare Assurance Number: D16-00225 (A3347-01) Cornell University – Ithaca
PHS Grant or Contract Number: NIH 2R01NS088448-06A1

Dear Dr. Wolff:

As Institutional Official for Cornell University's animal care and use program, I am reporting an issue of noncompliance involving mice that occurred under our General Assurance. This issue was reported to the IACUC at the December 16, 2021 meeting, and the IACUC agreed that the corrective actions taken were appropriate.

Explanation of the situation:

On 11/18/2021, seven mice pending euthanasia were found in a procedure location that is not an approved housing location. Additionally, the mice were left without a source of water. Mice were hunched, dehydrated, and a few were noted to display ataxic ambulation. Mice were provided with wet food, Nutri gel, and water. The CARE veterinarian contacted the Principal Investigator (PI) and asked the PI to ensure that the mice were attended to immediately.

On 11/19/2021, the same cages of mice were found in the same procedure location. The CARE veterinarian contacted the PI to inform her of the animals' current status, and to remind her of the important distinction between animal housing and procedure spaces. The CARE veterinarian confirmed that the mice were euthanized.

Action taken by the institution:

The PI was reminded to adhere to the provisions of her protocol, including standards of daily care (e.g., access to food and water), and that mice cannot be housed in a procedure location without IACUC approval. The PI was asked to remind her staff of the difference between housing and procedure spaces.

CARE veterinarians and the facility manager met with the PI and one of her lab members. They discussed details of the study and the importance of providing water to mice. CARE veterinarians were assured that mice will always be provided with water going forward, and that mice will never be housed in the procedure location. The CARE veterinarians were assured that the lab understands the issues related to this adverse event and their plans to exercise increased diligence with their mice.

If you have any questions concerning this adverse event that occurred under our General Assurance, please contact
(b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Emmanuel Giannelis
Vice President for Research and Innovation

cc:

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

AAALAC International

Obtained by Rise for Animals.
Uploaded to Animal Research Laboratory Overview (ARLO) on 11/16/2022

Ward, Joan (NIH/OD) [E]

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:37 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6) Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation;
(b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cornell University Report of Noncompliance
Attachments: Incident to OLAW February 2022.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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.

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Please see the attached report from Cornell University's Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Emmanuel Giannelis, describing an issue of noncompliance that occurred under our General Assurance. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)