



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 16, 2022

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

Dr. Todd Evans
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medical College
1300 York Avenue, LC710
New York, NY 10065

Dear Dr. Evans,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 9, 2022 letter reporting four instances of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Weill Cornell Medical College. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the incidents and the corresponding corrective actions:

- 1) Fifteen mice had undergone surgery but were not monitored for three consecutive days post-operatively as had been stipulated in the approved protocol.

Corrective action: The Principal Investigator (PI) was notified and directed to counsel staff to follow the protocol. The individual responsible was warned that any future noncompliance will result in suspension of animal use privileges.

- 2) A live mouse was found in the carcass refrigerator due to a failure to ensure death following a euthanasia procedure.

Corrective action: The mouse was appropriately euthanized. The PI was notified to ensure that staff follow the euthanasia policies and the individual responsible was retrained.

- 3) Several mice used in a craniotomy procedure received only one dose of analgesic post-operatively rather than the three doses required by the protocol.

Corrective action: The PI was notified and directed to ensure that staff follow the protocol as written.

- 4) Nine mice were subjected to tail snips at three months of age although the protocol only allows this procedure up to 28 days. The mice had been appropriately anesthetized and had been given analgesia.

Corrective action: The PI was notified and informed that if this procedure is to be used, the protocol must be amended, and that staff must follow the approved protocol.

Based on its assessment of these explanations, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented in each situation to correct and prevent recurrence of the problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy. We recommend that all PIs be reminded of their responsibility to ensure that staff follow the approved protocols not only to remain compliant, but to ensure adequate animal wellbeing. Thank you for informing OLAW of these matters.

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Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



Weill Cornell Medicine

A3290-2I

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
1300 York Avenue, Box 5
New York, NY 10065

Telephone: 646-962-2981/2
Email: iacucadmin@med.cornell.edu

445 East 69th Street, Olin Hall Rm-423
New York, NY 10065

May 9, 2022

Brent Morse, DVM
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: Assurance # D16-00186

Dear Dr. Morse:

We are writing to report incidents of non-compliance that occurred within the animal care and use program at Weill Cornell Medical College. The incidents were presented to and discussed by the IACUC during the month of April and May. The incidents and resolutions are as follows:

- During a semi-annual inspection the inspectors found that 24-, 48- and 72-hour post-op checks were not indicated on the surgery card for 15 mice which underwent subcutaneous transplantation of islet cells. The animal user stated that he had performed the post-op checks but had forgotten to complete the card. Examination of the electronic room access log indicated that he had not entered the room where the mice were housed during the three days after the surgery. The PI was contacted by the IACUC, the seriousness of the infraction detailed, and the PI was requested to ensure his lab members understand that failure to provide post-op checks is a significant welfare issue. He was also requested to ensure his lab members are aware that they must understand and adhere to what is described in the protocol. The animal user was warned that further non-compliance issues would lead to a suspension of his animal use privileges. (National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases 1 U01 AI138329-01; National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute 1 R35 HL150809-01 & 1 R61 HL154310-01A1)

- A mouse was found alive in the carcass refrigerator very shortly (~ 7 minutes) after it was placed there. The mouse found inside a closed carcass bag was euthanized immediately. The Lab Manager was informed of the unsuccessful euthanasia and the seriousness of the issue. Correspondence was sent from the IACUC to the PI requesting that he ensure his staff adhere with the euthanasia policies. The animal user was also retrained. (National Cancer Institute 1 R35 CA197588-01A1 & 1 K08 CA230318-01)
- Three cages of mice which underwent craniotomy and intracranial injection procedures received a single dose of buprenorphine, whereas the protocol states that buprenorphine is to be given post-operatively for 3 days. The PI was contacted by the IACUC, the seriousness of the infraction detailed, and they were requested to ensure their lab members understand that failure to provide pain management is a significant welfare issue. He was also requested to ensure his lab members are aware that they must understand and adhere to what is described in the protocol. (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke R01 NS 099568)
- Nine, 3-month-old mice underwent tail biopsy procedures, however the approved protocol states that only mice up to 28 days of age may undergo this procedure. The mice had been anesthetized and received appropriate analgesics. The PI was contacted by the IACUC and was informed that if tail biopsies were needed on mice greater than 28 days of age, they must submit an amendment to the protocol and wait for IACUC review and approval before performing the procedure. Additionally, the PI was requested to ensure their lab members are aware that they must understand and adhere to what is described in the protocol. (National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases 7 K01 DK114376-02)

We believe that these issues have been adequately addressed and that the procedures implemented should prevent recurrence. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (b) (6) or the IACUC Chairman, Dr. Andrew Nicholson, at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Todd R. Evans, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Associate Dean for Research
Weill Cornell Medicine

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:23 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will send a response soon.

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

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 4:10 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Andrew C. Nicholson <nicholso@med.cornell.edu>; Todd R. Evans <tre2003@med.cornell.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCM IACUC Incident Report (#D16-00186)
Importance: High

Dear OLAW:

Please find a WCM IACUC incident report attached and let me know if any further clarifications are required.

Best regards,

(b) (6)