



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

April 8, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3544-01 [OLAW Case Q]

Dr. Dennis Durbin  
Chief Scientific Officer  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
700 Children's Drive – (b) (4)  
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696

Dear Dr. Durbin,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 4, 2022 letter reporting an adverse event involving research pigs at the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, following up on an initial telephone report on March 28, 2022. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that two manually restrained minipigs died following blood collection from the jugular vein by veterinary staff. Necropsy revealed hemopericardium.

The corrective action consisted of having the veterinary staff review relevant vessel and heart anatomy and blood collection techniques, and using gas anesthesia for future blood collections.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair



**NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S**  
*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.*

**Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital**

April 4, 2022

Axel Wolff, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, in accordance with Assurance D16-00331 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of an adverse event. We first reported this incident to you on March 28, 2022, via a telephone call.

On February 14, 2022, 12 Gottingen minipigs were used for a routine blood collection procedure for which they were manually restrained by a trained member of the veterinary team staff. Out of those 12 pigs, 2 collapsed. Blood had been collected from the jugular/vena cava region by a trained member of the veterinary team staff prior to collapse. Attempts to resuscitate the two collapsed pigs were unsuccessful. Full necropsies were performed on the deceased animals, and hemopericardium was discovered in both. No vessel laceration was observed, and the venipuncture site was cranial to the heart. The vendor, (b) (4), suggested that restraint for blood collection most likely led to some vessel trauma and subsequent bleeding into the pericardial sac, resulting in the hemopericardium found upon necropsy. Subsequent pigs were chemically restrained with gas anesthesia for blood collection.

The following corrective action plan was implemented after the incident:

The entire veterinary technical team reviewed relevant vessel and heart anatomy photos from the necropsies performed on both pigs. Diagrams were discussed, and blood collection landmarks and techniques were reviewed. Restraint slings were discussed, and future studies will utilize chemical restraint using anesthesia for blood collection.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

With regards,

(b) (6)

Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE  
Research President, Institutional Official  
Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

cc: IACUC Chair

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 10:20 AM  
**To:** IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: D16-00331 Final Reports

Thank you for these reports. We will send responses soon.

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

**From:** IACUC <IACUC@nationwidechildrens.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 6, 2022 10:05 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Durbin, Dennis <Dennis.Durbin@nationwidechildrens.org>; (b) (6)

(b) (6)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] D16-00331 Final Reports

**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.

Good morning,

Attached are the three final reports requested by Dr. Wolff on March 28, 2022. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Office**  
Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

(b) (6)





Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 3/28/22

Time: 1000

Name of Person reporting: Dennis Durbin, MD

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

Assurance number: A3544

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

2/12 pigs died after bleeding, struggled when being bled, manual restraint

Species involved: P19

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: 2

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known):

Revised SOPs

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

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Case #