



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

December 20, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#D19-101069 (OLAW Case A)

Ahmed Mahdy, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive – (b) (4)
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Dear Dr. Mahdy,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 13, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) following up on an initial November 18, 2021 notification by email.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the TAMU-CC Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: failure to complete semiannual facility inspections within the appropriate time frame. It is stated the June 16, 2021 inspection report did not include all animal locations. Two off-campus facilities were last inspected on March 8th and 12th of this year and the next inspection occurred on November 9, 2021. It is understood the June 16, 2021 inspection focused on the on-campus locations. Per the report, the Principal Investigator (PI) was contacted on June 14, 2021 and indicated animal experiments had ended and there were no animals to inspect, which were verified by a review of animal care logs. Based on this information, Office of Research Compliance (ORC) staff determined the off-campus locations did not require inspection. This action was ultimately corrected and the ORC staff responsible for scheduling inspections was advised to schedule the off-campus locations before September 2021.

During preparation of the Annual Report to OLAW, it was determined a new animal lab was not included on the June 16, 2021 inspection report. The first IACUC-approved experiment was conducted in the new lab on June 10, 2021 and no IACUC lab inspection occurred prior to initiation of research. The report states the first inspection occurred on November 9, 2021. In response, a corrective action plan was implemented and approved by the IACUC on December 10, 2021. The plan included the following:

- Calendar reminders will continue to be utilized to ensure inspections are scheduled within the six-month time frames.
- IACUC will on-board a new primary veterinarian and two back-up veterinarians to increase coverage for inspection dates.
- A full-time IACUC/IBC coordinator who has served on the TAMU-CC IACUC since 2016 was hired in September 2021. ORC staff responsible for scheduling inspections in June 2021 has been relieved of this responsibility.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi 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: 2021.12.20
10:39:05 -05'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: J. Tubbs

Time: 1101AM

Date: 11-18-2021

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Texas A&M
Assurance number: D19-001069

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? TBD

Funding component:

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

IACUC determined facility inspections were not completed within the appropriate timeframe. No animals were present in the satellite facility in June when inspection should have occurred.

Species involved:

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: none

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:
60-90d

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Case # _____