



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

July 13, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3472-01 [OLAW Case 6D]

Dr. David Russell
Vice President and Dean of Basic Research
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75390-9002

Dear Dr. Russell,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 28, 2021 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Your letter supplemented the information contained in an initial telephone report to this office on April 15, 2021. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on April 8, 2021, a research staff member left two rats in a transport container in the vivarium overnight without food or water. The animals were found by animal facility staff and immediately placed into clean cages. Veterinary staff assessed the animals for general health and minor fight wounds. No medical treatment was needed. The rats involved in this incident were supported by NIH funding.

Corrective and preventive measures included counseling of the responsible research staff member by a senior liaison from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) on April 8 and 9, 2021. The research staff member immediately implemented changes to the laboratory's animal transport procedures and the IACUC accepted the changes. No further issues have been observed by the IACUC since this incident occurred.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel -S

Digitally signed by Robyn M.
Engel -S
Date: 2021.07.14 07:37:58 -0400

Robyn M. Engel, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

A3472 - 6D

UTSouthwestern
Medical Center

David W. Russell, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of Research
UT Southwestern Medical School
Department of Molecular Genetics
Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair

June 28, 2021

Brent Morse, DVM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892

RE: UT Southwestern Medical Center Animal Welfare Assurance Statement # D16-00296
Grant: 1 R01 DA041390-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

I write to provide a final report of non-compliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals regarding an incident on April 8, 2021. Based on conversations with animal facility and laboratory staff, the IACUC determined that a research staff member accidentally left two rats in a transport container in the vivarium overnight, without food or water. These animals were found by animal facility staff with minor fight wounds and immediately placed into clean cages. Later on the same day, the animals were observed by veterinary staff and appeared to be in good condition. No medical treatment was needed for the minor fight wounds.

The responsible research staff member was counseled by a Sr. IACUC Liaison on April 8 and 9, 2021. The research staff member immediately implemented changes to their animal transport procedures and the IACUC accepted these changes. No further issues have been observed by the IACUC since. This incident was first reported to you via voicemail message by an IACUC Manager on April 15, 2021.

We believe the actions taken by the IACUC are appropriate for this situation.

Yours sincerely,

(b) (6)

David W. Russell, Ph.D.
Vice Provost, Dean of Research, and Institutional Official

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, July 2, 2021 7:11 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report to OLAW

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: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 3:26 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: David Russell <David.Russell@UTSouthwestern.edu>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: Report to OLAW

To the Division of Compliance Oversight,

Attached is a final report of noncompliance. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this report.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

UT Southwestern
Medical Center
The future of medicine, today.



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: BCM

Date: 4/15/2021

Time: Voicemail

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)

Telephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Univ. of Texas Southwest Med Cen.

Assurance number: A3472

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? yes

Funding component: NIDA

Was funding component contacted (if necessary):

What happened?

Two rats left overnight in transport container w/o food or water. Rats had fought.

Species involved: rat

Personnel involved: research staff

Dates and times: 4/8/2021

Animal deaths: No

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

Counseling of research staff. Rats were placed in clean cages and appeared to recover O.K.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

< 60 days

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Case #