



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 5, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3343-01 (OLAW Case 2Y)

Dr. Giulio Draetta
Chief Scientific Officer
University of Texas MD Anderson Center
1515 Halcombe Boulevard – (b) (4)
Houston, Texas 77030

Dear Dr. Draetta,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 29, 2021 letter reporting an adverse event resulting from a natural disaster at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MD Anderson). This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the MD Anderson Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that an adverse event occurred with respect to: a water pipe burst due to a natural disaster resulting in the deaths of 6 mice. The final report states on February 17, 2021, during the Texas winter storm disaster, the Department of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery found water from a burst pipe leaking into a rodent housing room. The severity of the leak required relocation of all the rodent housing racks to another housing space. Ultimately, 6 mice involved in PHS supported activity did not survive due to this event. The corrective actions included stopping the leak and transferring animals out of danger. The IACUC reviewed the matter and corrective actions at the convened meeting on April 20, 2021. The committee determined the actions taken were appropriate to address the incident.

Your prompt and thorough resolution of this matter is commendable, and we appreciate having been 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: 2021.05.05
07:26:13 -04'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

**MD Anderson
Cancer Center**

Making Cancer History®

Giulio Draetta, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer
1515 Holcombe Boulevard
Unit 1492
Houston, Texas 77030
T 713-792-6370

April 29, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONolawdco@mail.nih.govBrent C. Morse, DVM. DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910Re: Reportable Incident; Animal Assurance # A3343-01
MDA internal reference #HMain3-0321-002
Funding: NCI RO1 CA236949 (AWD00001565)

Dear Dr. Morse,

I am writing to provide a report of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MD Anderson) Institutional Care and Use Committee's (IACUC) finding of a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. A full explanation of the circumstances as well as actions taken is provided below.

A water pipe burst due to a natural disaster, jeopardizing the health and well-being of animals that resulted in the death of animals.

On February 17, 2021, during the Texas winter storm disaster, around 4:00 AM, the Department of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (DVMS) discovered water from a burst pipe leaking into a rodent housing room. The leak was so severe it required all of the rodent housing racks in the room to be relocated to another housing space. One of the racks was found to have around 15 flooded cages of mice. Unfortunately, mice in 2 cages housing 2 mice each were found deceased and mice in an additional cage of 2 mice succumbed to the flood despite efforts to recover them resulting in a total of 6 mice impacted by the facility water leak. Animals in the remaining cages recovered without further incident. The impact to PHS supported activity was the loss of the 6 mice and the related data that would have been acquired from those mice.

The corrective actions were to stop the leak and transfer the mice out of danger.

The IACUC reviewed the incident and related corrective actions at its fully convened meeting on April 20, 2021. The IACUC determined that the corrective actions were sufficient to address the above-listed serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide* due to a water pipe bursting.

MD Anderson is committed to assuring compliance with the PHS policy and the *Guide*, and to maintaining proper measures and procedures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research. I will be happy to respond to any additional questions you may have regarding this report.

Regards,

(b) (6)

Giulio Draetta M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer
MD Anderson Cancer Center
1515 Holcombe Blvd.

(b) (4)

Houston, TX 77030

(b) (6)

cc: Jim Bankson, Ph.D., Professor and IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

Gaylen Howell, Director, Research Oversight & Integrity

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 7:46 AM
To: Howell,Gaylen W
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: MD Anderson Cancer Center (A3343-01) HMain3-0321-002

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

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

From: Howell,Gaylen W <gwhowell@mdanderson.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 7:21 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Draetta,Giulio <GDraetta@mdanderson.org>; Bankson,Jim <jbankson@mdanderson.org>; (b) (6)
(b) (6)
Subject: MD Anderson Cancer Center (A3343-01) HMain3-0321-002

Dear Dr. Morse

Please find attached our final report for an incident that occurred at MD Anderson Cancer Center (A3343-01). Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Gaylen

Gaylen Howell, MA, MBA
Director, Research Oversight & Integrity
Institutional Compliance
gwhowell@mdanderson.org
(b) (6)

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