



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

August 20, 2021

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3343-01 (OLAW Case 3A)

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 August 11, 2021 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 80 mice died after their cages flooded due to a burst water pipe above the animal room.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of relocating the surviving mice. The corrective actions consisted of repairing the leak and installing a leak detector alarm.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and to reduce the likelihood of a 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 contact

August 11, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

olawdco@mail.nih.gov

Brent C. Morse, DVM. DACLAM
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20892-6910

Re: Reportable Incident; Animal Assurance # A3343-01
MDA internal reference #HMain3-0621-004

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 and the remedial actions taken is provided below.

A water pipe burst that resulted in the death and compromise of health and well-being of mice.

On June 10, 2021, around 6:30 AM, a gasket in a water flange in the interstitial space above an animal housing room ruptured, resulting in a severe water leak that flooded cages housed on a single rack and in the loss of 80 mice. The surviving mice that were also housed on the flooded rack, and all other racks in that room, were relocated to a different housing space without further incident.

The mice affected were not financially supported by Public Health Service (PHS) funds. Nevertheless, this is being reported as the housing space is a shared physical area that could have affected PHS-supported activities.

The corrective actions were to transfer the animals to different housing space, and to repair the leak. In addition, a request has been submitted to the Facilities Department to install a leak detector alarm, which we anticipate will be completed by September 1, 2021.

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

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.
Unit 1492
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, August 13, 2021 7:17 AM
To: Howell, Gaylen W
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: MD Anderson Cancer Center (A3343-01) HMain3-0621-004

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: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:48 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Draetta, Giulio <GDraetta@mdanderson.org>; (b) (6)
Subject: MD Anderson Cancer Center (A3343-01) HMain3-0621-004

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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