



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500 – MSC 6910
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
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

DATE: August 22, 2022

TO: Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.
Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Director
Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigation (NIAID-DIR # 35-22) - Animal Welfare Assurance
A4149-01 [Case 17K]

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 16, 2022 memo regarding an incident of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of Intramural Research (NIAID-DIR). According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on April 25, 2022, the ACUC was notified that a cage of mice in an animal facility had been found flooded with a litter of seven, dead, two-week old mice. It was determined that the cage had been flooded for a prolonged period of time and the animals had died of hypothermia. Subsequently, it was determined that the animal caretaker had not conducted the mandated health checks properly and therefore did not notice the flooding in time to save the mice.

Corrective and preventive actions: The animal caretaker received immediate hands-on training from the Facility Manager. The animal caretaker resigned immediately following the retraining.

The actions taken to attempt to resolve the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate and accepted by OLAW. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Brent C. Morse -S

Digitally signed by Brent C. Morse -S
Date: 2022.08.22 12:10:53 -04'00'

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: Dr. Stephen Denny
Dr. Richard Wyatt
Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D., NIAID-DIR ACUC Chair



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

www.nih.gov

August 16, 2022

TO: Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

FROM: Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

SUBJECT: Animal Welfare Investigations - Assurance D16-00602 (NIAID-DIR 35-22)

This correspondence conveys the results of an animal incident investigation by the NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease-Division of Intramural Research (NIAID-DIR) ACUC in accordance with Assurance D16-00602 and PHS Policy IV.F.3. The incident involved failure to monitor mice in accordance with the NIAID-DIR Animal Husbandry SOP.

The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by the NIAID-DIR ACUC Chairman on April 26, 2022.

Please contact me or Dr. Stephen Denny, Director, Office of Animal Care and Use, if additional information or clarifications are required.

Nina F.
Schor -S

Digitally signed by Nina F.
Schor -S
Date: 2022.08.16
16:26:28 -04'00'

Nina F. Schor, M.D., Ph.D.

Attachment

cc: Dr. Wyatt
Dr. Denny
Dr. Cunningham



National Institute of
Allergy and
Infectious Diseases

DATE: 8/11/2022

TO: Nina Schor, M.D., Ph.D., Deputy Director for Intramural Research, NIH

FROM: Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D., Chairman, NIAID DIR ACUC

SUBJECT: NIAID DIR ACUC Animal Incident Investigation

Per the requirements of PHS Policy and NIH Policy Manual 3040-2, I am reporting an incident that occurred within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) involving the care and use of animals in biomedical research.

INCIDENT:

On 4/25/22, the Animal Program Director's office, reported to the NIAID DIR ACUC Chair that a cage of mice in the Bldg. 14B South animal facility had been found flooded with a litter of 7 dead two-week old mice. It was determined that the cage had been flood for a prolonged period of time and the animals had died of hypothermia. The ACUC Chair notified the Office of Animal Care and Use on 4/26/22.

The subsequent ACUC incident investigation revealed that the animal caretaker had not conducted the SOP mandated health checks properly and therefore did not notice the flooding in time to save the mice.

ACTIONS:

In response, the animal caretaker received immediate hands-on training from the Facility Manager. The animal caretaker resigned immediately following the retraining.

After discussion at a convened meeting on 5/24/22, the ACUC concluded that this was a reportable incident due to lack of compliance with the NIAID DIR Animal Husbandry SOP leading to animal mortality.

Given that the animal caretaker responsible was no longer in that position and had resigned from NIH, the ACUC felt that the actions described above should ensure a similar incident will not be repeated.

Kirk A.
Cunningham -S

Digitally signed by Kirk A.
Cunningham -S
Date: 2022.08.12
08:13:20 -04'00'

Kirk A. Cunningham, Ph.D.
OSD/DIR/NIAID/NIH

CC: Richard M. Wyatt, Deputy Director of the Office of Intramural Research
Stephen L. Denny, D.V.M., Director, NIH OACU
Steven M. Holland, Ph.D., Scientific Director, NIAID DIR

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 7:49 AM
To: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E]
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NIAID-DIR 35-22))

Good morning Dr. Denny,

Thank you for sending us this report and we will send a response soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
301-435-2390

From: Denny, Stephen (NIH/OD) [E] <stephen.denny@nih.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:31 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: D16-00602 NIH Animal Incident Report (NIAID-DIR 35-22))

Dear OLAW/DCO,

The attached documents from the NIH Institutional Official and the NIH NIAID-DIR ACUC address an animal incident involving mice. The event was first reported to the NIH Office of Animal Care and Use by NIAID-DIR ACUC Chairman on 26 April, 2022.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or at the phone number listed below. Thank you, Steve

STEPHEN DENNY, DVM, MS, DACLAM, DACVPM | Director, Office of Animal Care and Use | NIH Bethesda Campus, Building 31/Room B1C37 |
Phone: (301) 435-2188 | *NIH . . . Turning Discovery Into Health* |