



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 2, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3431-01 [OLAW Case 9S]

Dr. Lisa Muto  
Executive Dean for Administration  
Harvard Medical School  
25 Shattuck Street, Gordon Hall – (b) (4)  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Dr. Muto,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 28, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Harvard Medical School. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that mice were identified with dehiscence at the surgical site of intracranial injections. In addition, the mice had not received the required post-operative analgesia.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of notifying the veterinary staff, providing analgesia, and appropriately closing the incisions. The laboratory developed a plan covering post-surgical animals that has additional staff available to prevent gaps in the provision of care. The surgeon has taken retraining with a veterinarian on suture techniques.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



# HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

A3431-9S

LISA M. MUTO, PH.D.  
EXECUTIVE DEAN FOR ADMINISTRATION  
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
25 SHATTUCK STREET, (b) (4)  
BOSTON, MA 02115

July 28, 2023

Brent Morse, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

**FINAL REPORT**

RE: Non-Compliance Report: Assurance: **A3431-01**  
Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC)  
**Species:** *Mus musculus* **Grants:** 3U19NS113201-04S1

Dear Dr. Morse,

This letter serves as a final report on an incident that was preliminarily reported to OLAW by the Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals (HMA IACUC) on June 30, 2023.

On May 25, 2023, veterinary staff observed surgical site dehiscence for two groups of mice that had undergone intracranial injections on May 19, 2023, and May 20, 2023. Veterinary and laboratory staff addressed the situation promptly, authorizing the use of supplemental analgesia for the animals. Under veterinary supervision, surgical sites for all animals were cleaned, debrided, and reclosed. Upon review of post-surgical documentation, it was discovered that these animals had not received analgesia in the days following their initial survival surgery procedures. The HMA IACUC has classified this as a significant noncompliance with the approved IACUC protocol.

In response to this noncompliance, the laboratory has developed a comprehensive plan to attend to animals in recovery, that includes coverage redundancies to ensure no further gaps in post-operative care occur. The individual responsible for the initial surgical closure has also attended a retraining session with an HCCM veterinarian to improve suture skills.

The Committee is satisfied with the corrective actions taken by the laboratory staff and considers these incidents to be resolved. Please let us know if any additional information is required at this time.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

**Lisa M. Muto, PhD**  
Executive Dean for Administration  
HMA Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee: Institutional Official

CC: **Gerald B. Pier, PhD**  
Chairman, Harvard Medical Area Standing Committee on Animals

**Brian F. Corning, DVM, DACLAM**  
Executive Director of the Harvard Center for Comparative Medicine, Harvard Medical School:  
Attending Veterinarian



## McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 3:36 PM  
**To:** HMS-IACUC  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Report

Good afternoon,

Thank you for sending us this final report and we will send an official response soon.

Best,  
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA ([pronunciation](#))  
Program Analyst  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390  
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**From:** HMS-IACUC <[iacuc@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:iacuc@hms.harvard.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 28, 2023 1:40 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <[olawdco@od.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Final Report

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