



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 28, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3187-01 [OLAW Case 10M]

Bill Yates, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
University of Pittsburgh
3500 Fifth Avenue (b) (4) Hieber Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Dr. Yates,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 11, 2023, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three head-fixed mice on a PHS-supported study were left overnight in a behavioral chamber without access to food and water. The animals were ambulatory and recovered after they were returned to their home cage and provided DietGel.

The corrective action consisted of submitting a letter describing the noncompliance to the investigator and supervisor and the IACUC approving the investigator's action plan instructing laboratory personnel to set reminders during every study to take animals out of the behavioral apparatus.

The establishment and application of policies and practices that are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Pittsburgh are commendable and avoid the perception of a double standard. We appreciate having been informed about this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Neera V. Gopee -S

Digitally signed by Neera V.
Gopee -S
Date: 2023.08.28 11:23:00 -04'00'

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT
Associate Director, Animal Welfare Policy
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

cc: IACUC Chair



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of
Research Protections

A3187-10M

Bill J. Yates, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research Protections
Professor of Otolaryngology & Neuroscience &
Clinical and Translational Science

(b) (4) Hieber Building
3500 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(b) (6)

Email: vcorp@pitt.edu

August 11, 2023

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive – MSC 7982
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Dear Dr. Morse:

As the Institutional Official responsible for the University of Pittsburgh's Animal Care and Use Program (Assurance number D16-00118), I am writing to advise your office of a reportable incident¹.

On June 8, 2023, three head-fixed mice were found unattended and without access to food and water. They had been left in a behavioral chamber overnight. Upon discovery, the mice were returned to their home cages and provided with DietGel. Afterward, the mice were ambulatory, and recovered.

The IACUC approved the corrective action plan submitted by the investigator for the incident, which included the following item:

- The investigator instructed lab personnel to set reminders during every experiment to take animals out of the behavioral apparatus.

The investigator's research group is supported by the following NIH grants:

F32-NS124755	Thalamic reticular nucleus regulation of behavioral flexibility through modulation of a thalamocortical circuit
K08-DK136916	Dissecting circuits underlying loss of control relevant to binge eating
R01-NS125141	Investigating the role of anterior lateral motor cortex in control and execution of sequenced behaviors
5R01MH119837	Dissecting the role of striatal cell types in abnormal repetitive behaviors and treatment response
1F30MH115517	Examining the Role of EAAT3 in OCD-like Behavior

¹ PHS Policy IV.C.1.d.

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM
August 11, 2023
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The IACUC levied the following sanction:

- A letter was sent to the investigator and their supervisor regarding these events.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Bill J. Yates, PhD

McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 2:11 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: University of Pittsburgh

Good afternoon (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us these two reports and we will send official responses 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
Email: devora.mccoy@nih.gov

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 7:44 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] University of Pittsburgh

Please review the attached correspondence forwarded on behalf of Bill J. Yates, PhD, Vice Chancellor for Research Protections. Thank you.

(b) (6)