



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 15, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3432-01 [OLAW Case Y]

Deyanira Santiago, BS, MBA  
Director, Science Administration  
Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology  
3601 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Ms. Santiago,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 10, 2023 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the Wistar Institute. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that three mice died due to lack of water caused by the presence of a sticker over the bottle cap. Furthermore, the investigators failed to monitor the animals three times weekly as stated in the approved protocol.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the animal caretakers on the correct method for setting up water bottles in rodent cages, including removal of water bottle stickers. The research staff was counseled on adhering to the protocol and on ensuring that all animals have access to food/water.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

A3432-4



## THE WISTAR INSTITUTE

### Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

May 10, 2023

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

**Re: The Wistar Institute #D16-00271 (A3432-01)**

Dear Dr. Morse:

Per our Assurance A3432-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3, I am providing this report regarding an adverse event in our Animal Facility.

The IACUC office received an Adverse Event (AE) report from the Managing Director of the Wistar Institute Animal Facility (WAF) on April 5, 2023. The AE report indicated that a research staff notified the animal facility that they found three mice dead in one of their breeding cages. In addition, the researcher realized that the water bottle was not freely dispensing water. The researchers also indicated that they had not monitored the animals for several days as per their protocol, which states three times per week. No other animals were affected.

It was determined that the Innovive M-WB-300A plastic water bottle, placed in the aforementioned breeding cage, was obstructed, as the seal (sticker) on the bottle cap was not completely removed. Although the animal care technician (ACT) did attempt to remove the water cap seal, part of the sticker remained, and it obstructed the opening on the cap, preventing free water flow.

The Managing Director and the Attending Veterinarian immediately re-trained the individual involved in the AE and provided one-on-one training to the entire WAF staff. During the training session, the Director demonstrated the correct process to set up a new water bottle in a mouse cage. The Director and AV strongly emphasized that ACTs must ensure that lids are secure, water cap labels are completely removed, and confirm that the water is properly dripping from the opening before placing the bottle in the cage.

The WAF management provided additional group training to all of the staff on April 20<sup>th</sup>, again demonstrating the appropriate steps for initial cage changing and spot checks throughout the work week.

The IACUC reviewed the adverse event during their April meeting and discussed the additional training with WAF Managing Director. The committee concluded that although it is understood that human error may occur, additional vigilance should be in place to detect errors in a timely manner, (maximum within 24 hrs.). The committee has emphasized this requirement to the WAF administration. Additionally, the IACUC reminded the researchers of their responsibility to monitor their animals per their protocol, ensuring proper conditions, including food and water.

As always, the Wistar Institute is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me.

Respectfully,

(b) (6)

Deyanira Santiago  
Director of IACUC & IRB Administration  
Institutional Official

Cc:

(b) (6)

Dr. Jessie Villanueva, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 11:52 AM  
**To:** Deyanira Santiago  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Wistar A3432-01 OLAW Adverse Event Report

Good morning Ms. Santiago,

Thank you for sending us this report, assigned OLAW case number A3432-Y, 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  
Email: [devora.mccoy@nih.gov](mailto:devora.mccoy@nih.gov)

**From:** Deyanira Santiago <[dsantiago@wistar.org](mailto:dsantiago@wistar.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 8:31 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <[olawdco@od.nih.gov](mailto:olawdco@od.nih.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jessie Villanueva <[jvillanueva@Wistar.org](mailto:jvillanueva@Wistar.org)>; (b) (6) AAALAC International <[accredit@AAALAC.org](mailto:accredit@AAALAC.org)>; WI Science Administration Department <[ScienceAdmin@wistar.org](mailto:ScienceAdmin@wistar.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wistar A3432-01 OLAW Adverse Event Report

Good morning Dr. Morse,

Attached please find our report regarding an adverse event that occurred within our animal facility here at the Wistar Institute.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Thank you,

Ms. Deyanira Santiago  
Director, IACUC & IRB Administration  
Institutional Official

**The Wistar Institute**

3601 Spruce Street | Philadelphia, PA 19104

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| [www.wistar.org](http://www.wistar.org)

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