



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive B MSC 7982  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982  
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
Rockledge One, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817  
Telephone: (301) 496-7163  
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 23, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3063-01 [OLAW Case Y]

Dr. Lawrence E. Cornett  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
4301 W. Markham St., MS #718  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Dr. Cornett,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 23, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, following up on an initial telephone report on June 8, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 45 mice died/were euthanized after inadvertently receiving DMSO rather than PBS as a vehicle for injection of a bacterial solution. Human error on the part of the student preparing the solution led to this outcome.

The corrective actions consisted of the Principal Investigator retraining the student on the content of the protocol and on the procedures for cell resuspension.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to 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

4301 W. Markham St., #718  
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

501-686-5347  
501-526-7465 (fax)

lcornett@uams.edu  
www.uams.edu

Lawrence E. Cornett, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Research



July 23, 2018

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

Dear Dr. Morse:

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), in accordance with Assurance A3063-01 and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this final report of an animal welfare issue resulting from unexpected adverse events. The events occurred under a project funded by internal bridging funds.

During the week of May 21-25, 2018, an experiment was performed per the IACUC-approved animal use protocol to evaluate the relative virulence of a set of *Staphylococcus aureus* mutants introduced by tail vein injection in a group of 45 mice. The student involved in preparing the bacteria for injection inadvertently re-suspended the bacterial cells for this study in the freezing medium, which contains dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), rather than phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) as is described in the protocol. As a result, all of the mice died within 24 hours or had to be euthanized. All other aspects of the procedure were performed as described in the approved protocol.

The Principal Investigator reported the adverse event to the IACUC promptly, and has been very proactive in re-training the student and working to ensure that no further adverse events occur. The incident was discussed by the fully convened IACUC at their June 15, 2018, meeting. It was determined that no additional corrective actions are necessary based on the fact that the Principal Investigator has met with the student to review the protocol, the proper procedure for re-suspending the cells for injection, and all other aspects of the experiment. The student understands the importance of following the protocol carefully, and will do so in all aspects in the future. This Principal Investigator has been working successfully with these bacterial strains in various animal use protocols for many years at this institution with no similar adverse events.

This incident was first reported to you on May 29, 2018, via a telephone call from me as the UAMS Institutional Official.

UAMS is committed to protecting the welfare of animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW in this regard. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, \_\_\_\_\_

(b) (6)

Lawrence E. Cornett, Ph.D.  
Vice Chancellor for Research and Institutional Official

**Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]**

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 23, 2018 9:43 AM  
**To:** Cornett, Lawrence E  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Animal Welfare Final Report

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.  
Deputy Director, OLAW

**From:** (b) (6)@uams.edu] **On Behalf Of** Cornett, Lawrence E  
**Sent:** Monday, July 23, 2018 9:24 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@uams.edu>  
**Subject:** Animal Welfare Final Report

Dr. Morse –

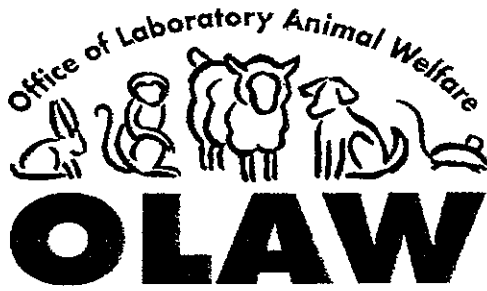
Please see the attached letter from Dr. Larry Cornett. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me,

Thank you,

(b) (6)

---

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: *am*

Date: *6/8/18*

Time: *5:00*

Name of Person reporting: *Laura Carter*  
Telephone #: *(b) (6)*  
Fax #:  
Email:

Name of Institution: *Univ Arkansas for Medical Sciences*  
Assurance number: *A3063*

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_\_\_\_  
Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_  
Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

### What happened?

*Incident occurred in a laboratory where a PHS+ funded project was being conducted. A mouse was placed into a hot water bath + 45 minutes died.*

Species involved: *Mice*  
Personnel involved:  
Dates and times:  
Animal deaths: *45*

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY  
Case # \_\_\_\_\_