



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) 402-7065

August 17, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3281-01 [OLAW Case 2C]

Francis L. Macrina, PhD  
Vice President for Research  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Biotech One, (b) (4)  
PO Box 980568  
Richmond, VA 23298-0568

Dear Dr. Macrina,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your final report, dated August 16, 2018, of an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Virginia Commonwealth University. Initial, prompt notification was provided by phone on August 7<sup>th</sup>. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 29<sup>th</sup> two mice were found dead in their cage and an additional one was lethargic. There was no food available in the cage. Despite supportive care, the third mouse was found dead the next day. It was determined that research personnel weaned these animals and did not add food to the cage. The animal caretaker failed to identify the lack of food. It was not stated if the related animal activity was PHS funded.

Corrective actions included retraining and counseling of the responsible animal caretaker. All DAR animal husbandry staff were apprised of the incident to increase awareness regarding verification of food and water in each cage. The investigator and lab personnel were counseled to ensure animals are not left without food and water and to visually check all cages they have handled before leaving the room.

Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident, provide corrective measures, and prevent recurrence. OLAW concurs that the incident warranted reporting. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact  
Amy Chang, M.S., Assistant Director for Animal Research



# VCU

## Office of Research and Innovation

### Office of Research and Innovation

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Francis L. Macrina, PhD  
Edward Myers Professor of Dentistry and  
Vice President for Research and Innovation

August 16, 2018

Brent Morse, D.V.M., Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
6700B Rockledge Drive  
Suite 2500, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
(301) 496-7163

### VCU Animal Welfare Assurance number D16-00180 (A3281-01)

Dear Dr. Morse:

Virginia Commonwealth University, in accordance with Assurance D16-00180 (A3281-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of noncompliance regarding lack of food resulting in the death of three mice. This incident was reported to you on August 7, 2018 via a telephone call by Ms. Amy Chuang, Director of Animal Care and Use Program, Office of Research Subjects Protection (ORSP).

### Description of Incident:

On Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Division of Animal Resources (DAR) animal care staff reported one cage containing two mice found dead and one lethargic due to lack of food during the health observations. The caretaker provided the cage with food and put a DietGel cup onto the cage floor. On Monday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, the third animal was found dead. The veterinarian necropsy indicated that two of the three had no food in their intestinal tract and the third had stool in its colon but nowhere else in the intestines. The investigator was contacted. Our investigator revealed that research personnel weaned these animals and did not add food to the cage. The DAR animal caretaker assigned to this area conducted daily observations and failed to identify the lack of food.

### Corrective action plan:

- (1) The DAR animal caretaker involved in this incident received individual counseling and retraining on conducting animal health observations, which emphasized the importance of verifying appropriate food and water levels and overall animal health every day. Documentation of this counseling and retraining, conducted on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, was provided to ORSP and also recorded in DAR's training file.
- (2) In order to minimize the possibility of a similar incident occurring in the future, at the next DAR staff meeting all DAR staff with animal husbandry responsibilities will be apprised of this incident in order to increase awareness regarding verification of food and water in each cage. Documentation and description of this meeting received during the staff meeting will be recorded and maintained in DAR's training folder.

an equal opportunity/affirmative action university

- (3) The investigator and lab personnel were informed to ensure animals must not be left without food and water. They were instructed to develop a habit of visually checking all cages they have handled before leaving the animal room.

We regret that this incident occurred. Following our detailed investigation, we have deployed specific corrective actions to enhance our program and to minimize future occurrences. The IACUC are advised of the above corrective actions at the full committee meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

We appreciate your consideration of VCU's efforts to minimize future occurrences. VCU remains committed to animal welfare and recognizes its ethical responsibilities in ensuring the welfare of research animals and complying with the *PHS Policy* on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Francis L. Macrina, Ph.D.  
Edward Myers Professor of Dentistry  
& Vice President for Research and Innovation

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:46 PM  
**To:** Kuei-Lan Chuang; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Francis Macrina; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up letter (VCU Assurance# D16-00180/A3281-01)

Thank you for providing this report Amy. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

**From:** Kuei-Lan Chuang [mailto:kchuang@vcu.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 3:09 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E] <morseb@mail.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Francis Macrina <macrina@vcu.edu>; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Follow-up letter (VCU Assurance# D16-00180/A3281-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

Attached please find the follow-up letter signed by Dr. Macrina, VCU Institutional Official. The incident was reported to you by phone on August 7th. The written report includes a detailed explanation of the incident and actions taken by VCU IACUC.

We have reviewed this incident thoroughly and deployed specific corrective actions designed to enhance our animal program and to prevent future occurrences. We appreciate your consideration and VCU recognizes its responsibilities to comply with the Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the Guide, and also remains committed to animal welfare.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (b) (6) or email to: [kchuang@vcu.edu](mailto:kchuang@vcu.edu).

*Best Regards,*

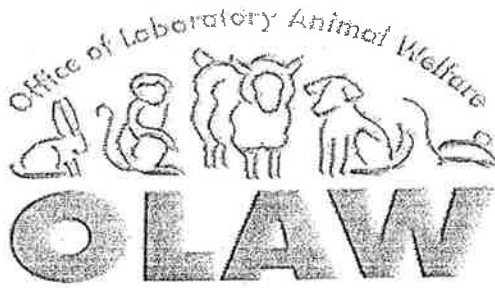
Amy Chuang

Amy

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Amy Chuang, M.S., RQAP-GLP, CPIA  
Director of the Animal Care and Use Program  
Office of Research Subjects Protections (ORSP)  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Box 980568  
800 E. Leigh St., (b) (4)  
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Animal Research website: <https://research.vcu.edu/secure/acup/index.htm>  
Animal Care and Use Program Blog: <http://wp.vcu.edu/acup/>



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: rgmDate: 8/7/18Time: 4:00Name of Person reporting: Amy ChuangTelephone #: (b) (6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: Virginia Commonwealth UnivAssurance number: A3281Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_\_\_\_Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_What happened? 2 of 3 mice dead when checked on Sunday, 1 reated but last animal found dead on Monday. Researchers forgot to provide food after weaningSpecies involved: micePersonnel involved: ResearchersDates and times: 8/5/18Animal deaths: \_\_\_\_\_Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): \_\_\_\_\_Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: \_\_\_\_\_

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Case # \_\_\_\_\_