



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

February 7, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3262-01 (OLAW Case 3Z)

Dr. S. David Kimball  
Senior Vice President,  
Research & Economic Development  
Rutgers, State University of New Jersey  
3 Rutgers Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Dear Dr. Kimball,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 29, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey following up on an initial January 23, 2020 notification by telephone.

According to the information provided, this Office understands that the Rutgers Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to: two mice observed with intestinal dehiscence. The final report states an investigation determined that the mice underwent an abdominal surgery in which the protocol described closure of the incision with sutures. The surgeon used skin glue to close the incision, which is approved for a minor procedure on the same protocol. Surgical records, including post-operative documentation, appeared to be incomplete and/or inaccurate. The report states the following corrective actions were taken in response to the incident:

- The affected mice were euthanized.
- The post-doc responsible for the incident left the lab (these were the last surgeries planned for the post-doc prior to leaving).
- The PI was counseled by the IACUC Executive Committee as well as Comparative Medicine (CMR) staff.
- The lab underwent retraining by the Post Approval Monitor and CMR Staff.
- Members of the lab that conduct or will conduct surgery are required to have a CMR veterinarian observe and certify each surgeon prior to performing any surgery independently, without CMR supervision.
- Members of the lab were required to sign off that they have read and understand the protocol.
- A sample surgical log document was provided to the lab.
- An amendment was submitted to allot animals for training for this surgical procedure.

At the November 20, 2019 regular meeting, the IACUC reviewed and discussed this incident and voted to report the matter to OLAW and accepted the above corrective actions. It is noted that this research is not PHS funded.

Based on the information provided, the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Jacquelyn T. Tubbs, DVM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

**Tubbs, Jai (NIH/OD) [E]**

---

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 10:33 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: final report for Rutgers Assurance D16-00169 (A3262-01)

Good morning (b) (6)

Thank you for the final report. We will send an official response soon.

Kind Regards,

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
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:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2020 5:41 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** final report for Rutgers Assurance D16-00169 (A3262-01)

Division of Compliance Oversight,

Attached is a final report for a reportable event under Assurance # D16-00169 (A3262-01).

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

January 29, 2020

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

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance Number D16-00169 (A3262-01)

Dear Dr. Morse,

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey hereby makes the final report for the following incident, reported to OLAW via telephone on January 23, 2019. On October 15, 2019, two mice with intestinal dehiscence were observed. Further investigation determined that the mice had undergone an abdominal surgery in which the protocol described closure of the incision with sutures; however, the surgeon had used skin glue to close the incision, which is approved for a different, minor surgery on the same protocol. Surgical records, including post-operative documentation, appeared to be incomplete and/or inaccurate.

The following actions were taken in response to this incident:

- The mice were euthanized.
- The post-doc responsible for this incident left the lab (these were the last surgeries planned for the post-doc prior to leaving).
- The PI was counseled by the IACUC Executive Committee as well as Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) staff.
- The lab underwent re-training by the Post Approval Monitor and CMR staff.
- Members of the lab that conduct or will conduct surgery were required to attend an additional aseptic techniques surgery course.
- Members of the lab that conduct or will conduct surgery were required to have a CMR veterinarian observe and certify each surgeon prior to performing any surgery independently, without CMR supervision.
- Members of the lab were required to sign off that they have read and understand the protocol.
- A sample surgical log document was provided to the lab.
- An amendment was submitted to the protocol to allot animals for training for this surgical procedure.
- At its regular meeting on November 20, 2019, the IACUC reviewed and discussed this incident and unanimously voted to report this matter to OLAW. The IACUC also voted to accept the above noted corrective actions.

Please note that this research is not funded by PHS.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

S. David Kimball, Ph.D.  
Institutional Official  
Senior Vice President, Research & Economic Development  
Vice President, Innovation & Research Commercialization



## Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 1/23/20

Time: 3:50

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)Telephone #: (b) (6)Fax #: (b) (6)Email: (b) (6)Name of Institution: Rutgers Univ.Assurance number: A3262

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? \_\_\_\_\_

Funding component: \_\_\_\_\_

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

What happened? Surgery on 2 mice. Used surgical glue. Dehiscence and euthanized.

Species involved: Mice

Personnel involved: Researcher

Dates and times: Oct 2019

Animal deaths: \_\_\_\_\_

Glue not approved for this surgery.

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

Retraining.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

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