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

February 5, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3381-01 [OLAW Case 2E]

Dr. Jennifer K. Lodge
Vice Chancellor for Research
Washington University in St. Louis
660 South Euclid Ave., Box 8108
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Dr. Lodge,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 30, 2019 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at Washington University in St. Louis, following up on an initial telephone call on June 1, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that thirty two mice died after their cages flooded as a result of human error on the part of the animal caretaker.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of placing all of the surviving mice into dry cages with supplemental heat. These animals recovered uneventfully. The animal caretaker was retrained, a senior caretaker was assigned to the area, and the laboratory staff was retrained on appropriate equipment handling.

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
Meredith Moore, Ph.D., IACUC Director

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Washington University in St. Louis
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

January 30, 2019
Assurance: D16-00245 (A3381-01)

Dr. Neera Gopee, DVM, PhD
VMO, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Initial Report: June 1, 2018; Case #A3381-2E

Dear Dr. Gopee,

Washington University in St. Louis (WU), in accordance with PHS Policy IV.F.3 and Assurance D16-00245, submits this final report for an adverse event initially reported by the IACUC Director on June 1, 2018.

A member of the animal facility staff discovered 26 flooded mouse cages during a routine daily observation check. A Principal Investigator reported an additional 7 flooded cages. Thirty-two mice died and all surviving mice were transferred to dry cages with additional heat support. No additional adverse clinical consequences were observed in the surviving animals. Evaluation of the equipment did not reveal a flaw or defect responsible for the incident and the root cause was identified as operator error.

The husbandry staff member responsible for the area was retrained and a different senior caretaker was assigned to the area. Appropriate equipment handling procedures were also reviewed with the lab. The IACUC has reviewed the incident and the completed corrective action plan and considers the incident resolved.

Although NIH supported researchers utilize the animal facility space, no specific costs were determined to be associated with the incident. In accordance with NIH Grants policy, any NIH funds directly associated with a noncompliant event would be returned.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,
(b) (6)

Jennifer K. Lodge, Ph.D.
Institutional Official
Vice Chancellor for Research

Campus Box 1054, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63130
(314)362-3229, Fax (314)747-6695, http:asc.wustl.edu

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Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2019 7:27 AM
To: Moore, Meredith; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); Lodge, Jennifer
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Final Reports

Thank you for submitting these reports Dr. Moore. We will send official responses soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

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

From: Moore, Meredith <moore577@wustl.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 5:20 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>; Lodge, Jennifer <lodgejk@wustl.edu>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: Final Reports

Dr. Gopee,

Attached, please find the final written reports for case numbers A3381-2E, -2H, and -2G.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Meredith L. Moore, PhD, CPIA
Director, IACUC Office
Washington University in St. Louis
(b) (6)

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A3381-02E

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

OLAW

Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: Weera Gopee

Date: 1-1-18

Time: 11:18 am

Name of Person reporting: Meredith Moore
Telephone #: (b) (6) [redacted]
Fax #:
Email:

Name of Institution: Washington University St. Louis
Assurance number: A3381-01

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? Not Known
Funding component: _____
Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? Adverse Event
26 Flood cages in rodent facility on May 1st. Thirty two mice 4 adults + 28 pups died. Unable to identify a cause

Species involved: Mice
Personnel involved: Unable to identify
Dates and times:
Animal deaths: 32 mice

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

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY
Case #_____

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