



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
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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
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February 1, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3275-01 [OLAW Case M]

Dr. Richard L. Summers
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Mississippi – Jackson
Medical Center
Office of Research
2500 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39216-4505

Dear Dr. Summers,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 26, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 125 mice and rats died after the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system malfunctioned and caused extremely high temperatures in the vivarium. The monitoring system also failed and did not sound the alarm to alert staff about the problem. Extremely cold external temperature contributed to the failure of the system.

The immediate action taken upon discovery early the next day consisted of increasing ventilation in the animal room and moving animals to unaffected areas. The HVAC system was repaired, veterinary care was provided to the surviving animals, and investigators were notified. The maintenance staff is determining the exact cause of the failure in order to implement preventive actions.

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,

signature

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

cc: IACUC Chair



A3275-101

Obtained by Rise for Animals. Uploaded 07/07/2021

January 26, 2018

Axel Wolff, 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

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), in accordance with Assurance D16-00174 (A3275-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a serious deviation from the provisions of the Guide which were related to a mechanical system malfunction involving the HVAC. Approximately 125 mice and rats were affected by this problem and died during the event.

On the evening January 16, 2018, extremely unusual cold temperatures (about 10F) were occurring in Jackson, Mississippi. One environment of the Center for Comparative Research, (CCR) (the vivarium) has its HVAC system on the rooftop, exposed to the elements. During the late evening hours, the system experienced a malfunction which resulted in extremely high temperatures within the animal environment. Temperatures exceeded 90F in several animal housing rooms. Concurrently, the electronic, centrally-administered HVAC monitoring system malfunctioned and did not notify or alarm/alert of the heating problem. Research staff and animal care members reported for work early on the morning of January 17, 2018 to discover the very hot conditions and emergency calls were initiated.

Immediately, increased ventilation was begun and animals were relocated to non-affected areas within the CCR. Maintenance personnel were immediately dispatched and corrective actions were taken. Veterinary care was similarly provided to these affected animals, including improving ventilation and providing a recovery gel diet supplement. Further, all investigators with animals in this environment were notified of the situation and were aware of the issues. In sum, about 125 mice and rats died as a result of increased temperature in the facility.

The Institution is working closely with our maintenance and mechanical division to understand why this situation occurred and to prevent any future recurrence. Engineers have noted that the extreme cold conditions played a prime role in this event and corrective measures are being pursued.



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MEDICAL CENTER
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The University of Mississippi Medical Center 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 contact the Office of Animal Welfare.

Thank you for consideration of this matter.

Since

signature

Richard Summers, MD
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
And Institutional Official

RLS/amk

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 8:37 AM
To: IACUC; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: Richard L. Summers; Secondary Individual
Subject: RE: Report of deviation from the Guide

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

Regards, Brent Morse

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

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From: IACUC [mailto:iacuc@umc.edu]
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 4:45 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Richard L. Summers <rsummers@umc.edu>; Secondary Individual @umc.edu>
Subject: Report of deviation from the Guide

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), in accordance with Assurance D16-00174 (A3275-01) and PHS Policy IV.F.3., provides this report of a serious deviation from the *Guide*.

This report is submitted on behalf of Richard L. Summers, MD, Institutional Official, University of Mississippi Medical Center, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, MS 39216-4505

Submitted by:

Secondary Individual
 Director - Office of Animal Welfare
 University of Mississippi Medical Center
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