



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 – 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

April 18, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3077-01 [OLAW Case 4H]

Ms. Robyn Diaz  
Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
262 Danny Thomas Place, MS 400  
Memphis, TN 38105-2794

Dear Ms. Diaz,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 16, 2018 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, following up on an initial report on January 30, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse died due to lack of food. The fragile genotype of the mouse may also have contributed to the animal's death.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the animal care staff involved.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

 (b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

April 16, 2018

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare/NIH  
RKL1, Suite 360 MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Dr.  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

Subject: Report of Noncompliance/Animal Welfare Assurance A3077-01

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please accept this written report, which documents an incident of noncompliance with Public Health Service (PHS) policy governing the care and use of laboratory animals. This final report is a follow-up to the preliminary report provided on January 30, 2018 by Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, the Chair of our Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). A description of the incident and the corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident of noncompliance are provided below.

On Monday, October 23, 2017, the ACUC received a report of an animal welfare concern regarding the discovery of one dead mouse in a cage without food from an Animal Resource Center (ARC) staff veterinarian.

A Subcommittee of the ACUC met on October 30, 2017 and interviewed the ARC Husbandry Technician (HT) who found the cage, the ARC HT who worked in the room over the weekend prior to the discovery, and the Principal Investigator's staff member who is responsible for conducting research on the specific line of mice. The Subcommittee learned that, although the cage of mice had been found without food, the genotype of the mice may have contributed to the death of the one mouse; therefore, the Subcommittee surmised that the lack of food may have contributed to the death of this animal but it was difficult to definitively pinpoint a cause given the fragile genotype.

As a result of this meeting, the following corrective action item was identified to prevent the recurrence of this type of animal welfare concern and the applicable parties have provided documentation that these have been addressed:

- ARC Husbandry personnel who worked in the room around the time of the incident have been retrained on the standard operating procedure (SOP) for their daily responsibilities of laboratories.

This incident was reported to the ACUC at the November 16, 2017 meeting, and an update was provided at the December 14, 2017 meeting. An update was also provided at the January 18, 2018 meeting.

The animals involved in this report were not on a project supported by a PHS funded award to the Principal Investigator.

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.

-2-

April 16, 2016

We are committed to protecting the welfare of the animals used in research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. If you require additional information about this report, or if you believe that further action from the ACUC is warranted, please contact us.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Robyn Diaz, J.D.  
Institutional Official

CC: Dr. James Downing, President and CEO  
Dr. Jim Morgan, Scientific Director

(b) (6)

Dr. Richard J. Rahija, Director, ARC  
Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, Chair, ACUC

(b) (6)

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

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:23 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Report of Noncompliance/Animal Welfare Assurance A3077-01

Thank you. We will respond soon.  
 Axel Wolff

**From:** (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 17, 2018 2:50 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Diaz, Robyn <Robyn.Diaz@STJUDE.ORG>; Downing, James <James.Downing@STJUDE.ORG>; Morgan, Jim <Jim.Morgan@STJUDE.ORG>; (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG; (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG; (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG; Rahija, Richard J <Richard.Rahija@STJUDE.ORG>; Schultz-Cherry, Stacey <Stacey.Schultz-Cherry@STJUDE.ORG>; (b) (6) @STJUDE.ORG  
**Subject:** FW: Report of Noncompliance/Animal Welfare Assurance A3077-01

From Robyn Diaz, Institutional Officer.

**CC:** Dr. James Downing, President and CEO  
 Dr. Jim Morgan, Scientific Director  
 (b) (6)  
 Dr. Richard J. Rahija, Director, ARC  
 Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, Chair, ACUC  
 (b) (6)

(b) (6)

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

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 8:01 AM  
**To:** Schultz-Cherry, Stacey; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Report

Thank you for this preliminary report Dr. Cherry. We will open a case file and await further information.

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:** Schultz-Cherry, Stacey [mailto:Stacey.Schultz-Cherry@STJUDE.ORG]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:24 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG>  
**Subject:** Report

Dear OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight,  
I am writing to let you know that the St Jude Children's Research Hospital ACUC investigated an animal welfare concern that occurred in October 2017 involving a cage of fragile mice found without food that was deemed reportable. The report is forthcoming. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information. I apologize for not reporting sooner. I thought I had reported it but could find no record of the report. Hence...

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Best,

*Stacey Schultz-Cherry, PhD*  
Member, Department of Infectious Diseases  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
Memphis, TN 38105

Phone: (b) (6)  
Fax: (b) (6)  
Cell: (b) (6)

