



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
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March 13, 2018

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

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 March 12, 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 February 28, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that four mice died due to lack of water caused by an improperly seated lixit which caused it to fail.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the animal care staff on standard operating procedures for lixits and having the Animal Resource Center management oversee the husbandry supervisor's repair of damaged watering systems.

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,

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

cc: IACUC Chair



March 12, 2018

Robyn Diaz
Chief Legal Officer
Senior Vice President
Office of Legal Services

t 901.595.2288 f 901.595.5944
robyn.diaz@stjude.org

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 D16-00043 (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 February 28, 2018 by Dr. Stacey Schultz-Cherry, the Chairperson of our Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC). A description of the two separate incidents and the corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident of noncompliance are provided below.

On Sunday January 14, 2018, an Animal Resources Center (ARC) Husbandry Services Technician (HST) found four dead mice in a microisolation cage while conducting daily observations. The ARC HST reported the dead mice to the weekend Husbandry Supervisor, who reported the incident to the Attending Veterinarian who subsequently reported it to the ACUC. The ARC HST reported that the quick disconnect water valve (lixit) had become nonfunctional preventing water from being provided to the cage.

A subcommittee of the ACUC met on February 28, 2018 and interviewed the ARC Husbandry Services Manager, who was the Weekend Supervisor referenced in the paragraph above. The subcommittee learned that the quick-connect water valve (lixit) supplying water to the mice in the cage had been found to be nonfunctional due to improper seating in the water manifold system. The subcommittee was unable to determine a specific cause for the improperly seated lixit on the manifold.

Because of these incidents, the following corrective action items will be implemented:

1. Training on all appropriate/relative ARC standard operating procedures for the use of quick disconnect lixits; and,
2. Husbandry Supervisor repair of damaged watering systems will be under the oversight of ARC Management.

This incident was reported to the ACUC at the February 2018 committee meeting and an update will be provided at the March 2018 meeting.

The mice involved in this report were on a project supported by a PHS funded award to the Principal Investigator.

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.

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March 12, 2018

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,

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Robyn Diaz, J.D.
Institutional Official

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

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

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From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 2:34 PM
To: Schultz-Cherry, Stacey
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Report

Hello Dr. Schultz-Cherry,

Thank you for this preliminary report. In future please provide as much information as you can in the preliminary report so we have a better idea as to the species involved and the nature of the noncompliance. This provides us with a better understanding and helps us to match the final report to the initial one.

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: Schultz-Cherry, Stacey [mailto:Stacey.Schultz-Cherry@STJUDE.ORG]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 12:34 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG>; (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG>; Rahija, Richard J <Richard.Rahija@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 January 2018 that was deemed reportable. The report is forthcoming. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.
Thank you in advance for your attention.

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

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