



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

July 5, 2018

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

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 June 27, 2018 letter reporting an adverse event impacting research mice at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, following up on an initial report on June 20, 2018. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that one mouse died and three were moribund after their cages flooded from a cracked water pipe.

The corrective actions consisted of euthanizing the moribund mice and treating any others that were affected. The treated mice recovered, the pipe was repaired, a cut off valve was installed in the piping system, the other lines were inspected, a leak detection system will be installed, and a plan was established to replace all current polypropylene piping.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and reduce the likelihood of a recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the institution to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

For

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

cc: IACUC Chair

June 27, 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 D16-00043

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. A description of the incident and the corrective actions taken to prevent the recurrence of a similar incident of noncompliance are provided below.

In the early hours of June 2, 2018, a pipe in an interstitial floor that distributes reverse/osmosis (RO) purified water to procedure labs in the building cracked and began leaking. A significant volume of water leaked from the pipe before the damaged pipe was detected. Water seeped into an animal room below the damaged pipe. Two cages on the top shelf of a cage rack were flooded. One mouse died and three mice were found moribund and were euthanized. The remaining mice were provided with supportive care and recovered uneventfully.

The following corrective actions have been taken to prevent recurrence of the incident.

- 1) The section of damaged pipe has been replaced and an isolation valve has been installed to cut off water to the distribution pipes.
- 2) The distribution lines have been visually inspected for evidence of degradation that might result in cracking.
- 3) Plans for a water detection system on the floor of the interstitial space is being evaluated for leak detection and prompt abatement of the risk to animals and damage to the infrastructure of the building.
- 4) In the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019), Facilities Operations and Maintenance will hire a contractor to replace all polypropylene RO/DI piping in the interstitial levels.

Axel Wolff, D.V.M.

- 2 -

June 27, 2018

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

This incident was reported to the ACUC at the June 21, 2018 committee meeting.

If you require additional information about this matter, or if you believe that further action from the ACUC is warranted, please contact us.

Yours 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: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:54 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Axel Wolff - NIH - 6-27-18 - Noncompliance - D16-00043

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff

From: (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG]
Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2018 11:38 AM
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)
(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)
(b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG
Subject: Axel Wolff - NIH - 6-27-18 - Noncompliance - D16-00043

Submitted on behalf of Robyn Diaz, 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

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Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

A3077-4M

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 1:18 PM
To: Rahija, Richard J
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: Preliminary report

Thank you for this preliminary report, Dr. Rahija. I will open a new case file.
 Axel Wolff

From: Rahija, Richard J [mailto:Richard.Rahija@STJUDE.ORG]
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 9:43 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG>; Schultz-Cherry, Stacey <Stacey.Schultz-Cherry@STJUDE.ORG>;
 (b) (6)@STJUDE.ORG>
Subject: Preliminary report

Dear Colleagues:

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ACUC received a report about the death of a mouse that was related to a water leak in the facility. The incident was judged to be reportable and a report will be provided to OLAW by the IO. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Dr. Rahija
 Richard J. Rahija, D.V.M., Ph.D., D.A.C.L.A.M.
 Director, Animal Resources Center
 St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 262 Danny Thomas Place
 Memphis, TN 38105
 (b) (6)

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