



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

May 3, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3539-01 [OLAW Case V]

Dr. Martin Hetzner  
Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer  
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies  
10010 North Torrey Pines Road  
LaJolla, CA 92037-1099

Dear Dr. Hetzner,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your April 16, 2018 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Salk Institute. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that newborn pups (mice?) were being decapitated with office scissors and without using anesthesia. This was being conducted in an animal holding room which is contrary to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) policy.

The corrective actions consisted of retraining the laboratory staff on appropriate euthanasia techniques in rodents and counseling the staff to follow the procedures as described in the approved protocol.

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 IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy. Please remember to clearly identify the species involved. Thank you for informing OLAW about this matter.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Chair

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Axel Wolff, DVM  
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, National Institute of Health  
Rockledge 1, Suite 360  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Wolff:

The Salk Institute, in accordance with the reporting requirements as defined by PHS Policy IV.F.3 and Assurance A3539-01, hereby communicates the following incident of non-compliance that occurred recently.

1) NIH grants AG047669, OD023076 and DK026741

On 3/14/18, a staff researcher was reported to the IACUC for decapitating newborn pups (0-2 days) with office scissors without anesthesia in an animal holding room. After further investigation and review of the protocol, the IACUC concluded that the investigator:

1. Conducted an unapproved procedure (decapitation without anesthesia);
2. Without proper equipment (sharp scissors or blades);
3. In an animal holding room against IACUC policy.

The incident was discussed at a convened IACUC meeting. After reviewing the incident, the committee voted unanimously to:

1. Retrain the researcher and the lab on proper euthanasia techniques in rodents;
2. Formally remind the entire lab that researchers are expected to follow their IACUC protocol while conducting research.

The researcher as well as all members of the laboratory were retrained and formally advised at a convened laboratory meeting.

The Salk Institute is committed to protecting the welfare of the animals used in research and appreciates the guidance and assistance provided by OLAW. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Paul Sawchenko, PhD, IACUC Chair at (b) (6)

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Martin Hetzer, PhD  
Vice-President, Chief Scientific Officer  
Institutional Official

Page 1 of 1

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2018 7:26 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Incident Report of Non-compliance

Thank you for this report, (b) (6) We will respond soon.

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

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**From:** (b) (6)@salk.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)@salk.edu>; Sawchenko, Paul <sawchenko@salk.edu>; Mathias Leblanc <mleblanc@salk.edu>; (b) (6)@salk.edu>  
**Subject:** Incident Report of Non-compliance

Hello,

Please find the attached letter describing an incident of non-compliance that occurred at our institution. Our IACUC Chair, Paul Sawchenko, and Senior Director of Animal Resources, Mathias Leblanc, are cc'd on this email.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
(b) (6)

(b) (6)