



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) 402-2803

November 30, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3099-01 [OLAW Case Z]

Mr. Michael A. Falzano
Executive Assistant Dean and
Institutional Official for Animal Welfare
Albany Medical College
47 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208-3479

Dear Mr. Falzano,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 21, 2017 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Albany Medical College. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that a mouse was found that had undergone unapproved survival surgery. The mouse was found in a breeding area where post-surgical animals are not to be housed. The animal was euthanized. Despite vigorous investigation, the responsible party was not identified.

Preventive actions included reiterating the rules for mouse surgery and mouse movement for all mouse users.

The prompt consideration of this matter by Albany Medical College was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to investigate the issue and prevent recurrence were appropriate. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Signature

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

cc: IACUC Contact



ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE

47 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208-3479

A3099-Z

November 21, 2017

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

Dear Dr. Wolff,

As Institutional Official of Albany Medical College (AMC), I am submitting a report of noncompliance.

Explanation for Incidents:

1. On October 30, 2017, a mouse was found by one of the animal caretakers that had evidence of survival surgery in the breeding area of the mouse vivarium, where post-surgical animals are not to be housed. Dr. Douglas Cohn, the Attending Veterinarian, was contacted, and he examined the mouse. It had bi-lateral sutures on each flank, and some of the suture material was protruding from one side of the incision site. It had been housed with another mouse, which had apparently removed the animal's testicles. He contacted the Principal Investigator, Non-PHS supported PI and asked him to euthanize the mouse for humanitarian reasons, which was done the same day. PI admitted that this was one of his mice, but stated that none of his staff had performed surgery on the mouse. The protocol listed on the cage card is 17-04006, which is only a breeding protocol. PI has IACUC approval to perform survival surgery (ligation of ureters) and the listed approach is mid-abdominal incision, not bilateral flank. The protocol involving survival surgery is 17-05001. The PI asked that Dr. Cohn find the person who performed the surgery. Dr. Cohn queried the two other PIs who housed mice in the same room, and both denied that their staff had taken the mice.

2. The animal care staff had not noticed this post-surgery mouse during the weekly rack change on the previous Wednesday, October 25. Therefore, Dr. Cohn requested from Security the videos of the area in question for the 5 successive days. He also sent out a query to all animal users to report any piece of evidence that may uncover the history behind this mouse. Dr. Cohn viewed the videos but did not find any evidence of staff entering into the room who were not authorized to go there. There was also no evidence that a mouse was removed from the room. He brought this information to the IACUC meeting on November 16. The IACUC

determined that nothing more could be done to locate the responsible person(s), but that to reiterate the rules for mouse surgery and mouse movement for all mouse users.

We are confident that the above-stated actions are in line with the expectations of OLAW.

Name of Institution: Albany Medical College, Albany, NY 12208

Animal Welfare Assurance Number: D16-00062 (A3099-01)

Reporting Requirement:

None

Corrective Actions:

None

ACUP #: 17-04006

Impact on PHS-Supported Activities: Not applicable.

The Albany Medical College is committed to assuring the welfare of all animals used in research. This report provides and describes the circumstances and actions taken.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Signature

Michael A. Falzano, MS

Albany Medical College

Dean's Office

Executive Assistant Dean

- Director, Office of Research Affairs, Administration and Compliance
- Institutional Official (IACUC and IBC)
- Research Integrity Officer

Telephone: Phone Number

E-mail: falzanm@mail.amc.edu

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 8:34 AM
To: Secondary Individual
Subject: RE: Assurance# D16-00062 (2nd animal incident)

Thank you for these reports, Secondary Individual. We will send responses soon. In future please send all final reports to olawdco@od.nih.gov.
Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director, OLAW

From: Secondary Individual [mailto:Secondary Individual@amc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 4:19 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Falzano, Michael <FalzanM@amc.edu>
Subject: RE: Assurance# D16-00062 (2nd animal incident)

Dear Dr. Wolff,

I am the administrative coordinator for Michael A. Falzano, MS, Institutional Official for Albany Medical College's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Attached to this email is a second report of noncompliance and an animal incident that occurred.

Please see the attached report.

Respectfully,

Secondary Individual Administrative Coordinator
on behalf of
Michael A. Falzano, MS
Institutional Official
Albany Medical College
Dean's Office
47 New Scotland Avenue MC # 34
Albany, NY 12208
Telephone: 518-262-0671
Email: falzanm@mail.amc.edu

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