



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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May 3, 2017

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3282-01 [OLAW Case Y]

Robert Clarke, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Dean for Research and Institutional Official
Professor, Department of Oncology
Georgetown University Medical Center
Medical Dental Building, NW105
3900 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20057

Dear Dr. Clarke,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 2, 2017 letter reporting an adverse event involving zebrafish at Georgetown University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that approximately 5000 fish died of gas bubble disease due to a leak in the tank pump. The leak was not easily detectable.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of turning off the pump and increasing the water volume to dilute excess gas. The pump was repaired and no further problems occurred. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) directed the Principal Investigator to obtain an oxygen sensor to monitor gas levels. The laboratory staff was counseled on recognizing the signs of the disease.

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 on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We strongly recommend that all unexpected animal deaths are promptly reported to the veterinarian. Thank you for informing OLAW about this matter.

Sincerely,

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight

cc: IACUC Chair



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

May 2, 2017

Dr. Axel Wolff, Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: Adverse Event Protocol 2016-1127

Dear Dr. Wolff:

Please be advised that, pursuant to PHS animal welfare regulations, the Georgetown University Animal Care and Use Committee (GU-IACUC) conducted a review of an incident involving unexpected zebrafish deaths that occurred on 3/17/17.

A subcommittee was appointed by the IACUC Chair to investigate this matter. The subcommittee reported on its investigation and made recommendations to the full Committee during the April 18, 2017 IACUC meeting. After a discussion by the full committee, the IACUC determined these deaths appear to be the results of gas bubble disease caused by an unobservable leak in the pump, this resulted in the deaths of ~5,000 adult fish (~50% of the total colony). The nursery fish were on a separate system and were not affected. When the zebrafish first started dying the staff did not know the cause, they believed it could have been something in the water (since they are on city water) or that the fish had succumbed to some disease. Upon further investigation they determined the cause to be gas bubble disease which had never occurred in the Georgetown colony. Once they discovered the cause they immediately shut off the pump and increased the water volume in the system to help dilute the excess gas. The PI then resealed all of the joints in the pump and turned it back on. No further issues have occurred since this repair was made.

After a thorough discussion of this report, the IACUC concluded that this was an unfortunate unexpected incident and not due to a noncompliance. However, to help prevent any future occurrence of this problem the IACUC sent a letter to the PI stating the PI must obtain an oxygen sensor to monitor gas levels. This could help prevent future deaths if increased gas levels are noticed in a timely manner. Staff are now knowledgeable on what signs to identify if this problem should again in the future.

The PI was informed of these requirements on April 25, 2017.

This core fish facility is supported by internal University funds, however studies performed on embryos <3dpf obtained from the breeder fish were potentially used in PHS funded research.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Clarke, Ph.D., D.Sc.
Dean for Research
Institutional Official- IACUC
Professor, Department of Oncology
Medical Dental Building, NW105
3900 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20057-1469

Office: Phone Number
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Lawrence Kromer, PhD
IACUC Chair
Professor of Neuroscience

Assurance #A3282-01

cc: Lawrence F. Kromer, PhD, IACUC Chair
Secondary Individual IACUC Administrator
Patricia Foley, DVM, DACLAM, CPIA, Director DCM & AV
AAALAC International

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2017 7:13 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Georgetown University IACUC Adverse Event Report 2016-1127

Thank you for this report, [REDACTED] In future please send all final reports to olawdco@od.nih.gov

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Director, Division of Compliance Oversight
OLAW

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@georgetown.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 2:50 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <WolffA@OD.NIH.GOV>
Cc: Robert Clarke <clarker@georgetown.edu>; Lawrence Kromer <kromerl@georgetown.edu>; Patricia Foley <pf418@georgetown.edu>; accredit@aaalac.org
Subject: Georgetown University IACUC Adverse Event Report 2016-1127

Dr. Wolff

I am sending this report on behalf of our Institutional Official, Dr. Robert Clarke.

Please see attached report of an adverse event on protocol 2016-1127

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
IACUC Administrator
Georgetown University Medical Center
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