



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
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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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January 16, 2018

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3047-01 (OLAW Case 2J)

Serpil C. Erzurum, M.D.
Chair, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute
Lerner Research Institute
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
9500 Euclid Avenue, NB 21
Cleveland, OH 44195

Dear Dr. Ezurum,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 3, 2018 letter regarding a series of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the Cleveland Clinic, which were not preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that several instances of noncompliance relating to the husbandry and daily care of mice, including monitoring of animal health and environmental conditions, were identified during a routine veterinary inspection of a telemetry laboratory. The veterinarian immediately instructed that animal care personnel correct the identified deficiencies and halted all ongoing animal activities until the IACUC convened to discuss the violations that potentially jeopardized the health or well-being of the animals. It was not stated whether the animal activities were PHS supported.

The corrective actions consisted of the IACUC indefinitely suspending the responsible individual's privilege to conduct live animal research until such time that the individual demonstrates compliance with policies and procedures involving the care and use of live animals in research.

Please be advised that OLAW recommends prompt preliminary reporting of noncompliance issues, with submission of a follow-up thorough report once corrective action has been taken. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate, correct and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. We appreciate being informed of these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Signature

Neera V. Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



Serpil C. Erzurum, M.D.
Chair
Lerner Research Institute

January 3, 2018

Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge One, Suite 360
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Dr. Morse:

The Cleveland Clinic Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) concluded that animal research non-compliance occurred in the Cleveland Clinic Animal Care Program. The Attending Veterinarian made a routine inspection of a laboratory in which long-term telemetry recording is conducted in mice and halted procedures in the telemetry lab until the IACUC convened to review the matter because he felt that the circumstances potentially jeopardized the health or well-being of the mice and did not comply with institutional policies. The AV found a number of issues related to the husbandry and daily care of the mice including monitoring of animal health and environmental conditions. The AV instructed animal care personnel to immediately correct any discrepancies.

The IACUC reviewed this incident at the November 16, 2017 meeting. The IACUC determined that this was reportable research non-compliance. At that meeting the IACUC discussed the history of the single individual involved with the mice in the telemetry lab, and voted to suspend this individual from the conduct of live animal research for an indefinite period, until the IACUC can be convinced that the individual is willing and able to follow all policies and procedures that relate to the care and use of live animals in research.

The Animal Welfare Assurance number for Cleveland Clinic PHS-funded grants is A3047-01.

Sincerely,

Signature

Serpil C. Erzurum, M.D.
Alfred Lerner Memorial Chair in Innovative Biomedical Research
Chair, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute

SCE/ag

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