



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7982
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
6700B Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

July 31, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3307-01 [OLAW Case U]

Dr. Michael Diamond
Senior Vice President for Research Administration
Augusta University
1120 Fifteen Street
Augusta, GA 30912

Dear Dr. Diamond,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your July 26, 2019 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Augusta University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on July 24, 2019 a research investigator was observed performing an unapproved physical "stunning" procedure on a mouse in advance of cervical dislocation. It was not specified if the activity to which the mouse was assigned was funded by the PHS or NSF.

After the IACUC review of the case, corrective actions included notifying the PI and retraining of the research investigator.

The prompt consideration of this matter by Augusta University was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Similarly, the actions taken to resolve 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,

(b) (6)

for

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

cc: IACUC Contact



AUGUSTA
UNIVERSITY

Medical College of Georgia
Department of Physiology
1120 15th Street, CA-3124
Augusta, GA 30912

July 26th, 2019

Michael P. Diamond, M.D., Institutional Official
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Leon Henri Charbonnier Endowed Chair
Associate Dean for Research, Medical College of Georgia
Senior Vice President for Research

Dear Dr. Diamond:

This letter is a report of an unexpected adverse event reported On Wednesday, July 24, 2019. An Animal Care employee for the Division of Laboratory Animal Services (DLAS) reported the following to the DLAS Training Coordinator:

- Caretaker was in the room changing cages. A research investigator entered the animal room at 10:26AM removed a cage of mice and took them to the cage change station. He took one mouse out, held the mouse by its tail and forcefully hit the mouse flat on the cage change station. He then performed cervical dislocation and put the carcass into small plastic bag. Caretaker saw a second mouse already in the bag, however only witnessed the described procedure with one mouse. Caretaker left the room to tell facility supervisor and the facility supervisor instructed the Caretaker to report the matter to the DLAS Training Coordinator.
- The Training Coordinator reported the incident to the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC through the electronic "Incident Report" system.
- The Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC Chair agreed that the "stun procedure" used by the PI was not an IACUC approved method of euthanasia and determined also that the procedure was not in alignment with the euthanasia procedures approved in the IACUC protocol.
- The Primary Investigator for the protocol was informed of the actions of the research investigator and person was re-training on the procedures listed in the protocol.
- On July 25, 2019 the IACUC discussed the incident at their regular monthly meeting. They identified this as a reportable unexpected adverse event.
- On Friday 7/26/2019, the DLAS Training Coordinator conducted a formal re-training session on protocol compliance and proper euthanasia techniques.

The IACUC is satisfied with corrective actions, and will keep this as an agenda item for the next convened meeting to ensure follow-up. For reporting purposes, our Assurance Number (A3307-01) is provided.

Submitted on behalf of the IACUC,

(b) (6)

Ruth Harris, PhD
Regents Professor

Phone 706-721-4479 Fax 706-721-7299 <https://www.augusta.edu/mcg/phy/>
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Report received and approved by the Institutional Official,
(b) (6)

[Redacted Signature]

Michael P. Diamond, M.D., Institutional Official
Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
(b) (6)

[Redacted Signature]

7/26/19
Date

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 8:21 AM
To: SVPRESEARCH; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6) Diamond, Michael; Harris, Ruth; (b) (6)
Subject: RE: Augusta University unexpected adverse event report - Assurance number: A3307-01/D16-00197

Thank you for providing this report Dr. Diamond. We will send an official response soon.

Best regards, Brent Morse

Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM
Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

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From: SVPRESEARCH [mailto:SVPRESEARCH@augusta.edu]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 3:59 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Diamond, Michael <michael.diamond@augusta.edu>; Harris, Ruth <RUHARRIS@augusta.edu>; (b) (6)
Subject: Augusta University unexpected adverse event report - Assurance number: A3307-01/D16-00197

Dear Dr. Morse:

Augusta University would like to report an incident at our University, as well as our response to that incident. A summary of the incident is attached, co-assigned by our new IACUC Chair Ruth Harris, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology, and myself as AU's Institutional Official.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Diamond, M.D., Institutional Official
Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

(b) (6)