



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, MSC 6910  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910  
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

December 3, 2019

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3180-01 (OLAW Case 5E)

Dr. Todd Sherer  
Interim Vice President for  
Research Administration  
Emory University  
1599 Clifton Road, NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322-1599

Dear Dr. Sherer,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 27, 2019 letter reporting a noncompliance with the PHS Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Emory University. Your letter supplements the information provided in the initial email report on June 10, 2019. According to the information provided it is understood that on March 23, 2019 eight mice were found dead in an animal room. It is believed that the mice died of dehydration since they were new to auto-water and learning to drink from a lixit. The DAR work study student assigned to perform room checks failed to do so on March 22, 2019. The animals were assigned to a PHS-funded activity.

The corrective and preventive actions consisted of DAR coaching the student on the importance of reporting absences immediately so that animal areas will be covered by other personnel. Buddy checks are being strictly enforced if/when needed. DAR Animal care supervisors check rooms each day to ensure the animal care technician has tended the rooms and signed off on the daily room activity log.

OLAW believes that the corrective and preventive measures put in place by Emory University are consistent with the provisions of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

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

cc: IACUC Contact



November 27, 2019

Brent Morse DVM  
Acting Director, Division of Compliance  
Oversight Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL 1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982  
Re: Emory University, Animal Welfare Assurance #A3180-01

Dear Dr. Morse,

The Emory University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), through the Institutional Official, is reporting the results of an event as required by section IV, F, 3a of the *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (PHS Policy). A preliminary report was provided via email to your office on June 10, 2019. This is the final report regarding the death of 8 mice by the absence of DAR work study student. The rodents belonged to a lab that had several NIH grants. They are GENFD0001523091, 1U54HL141981-01, 1R01HL141335-01, 1U01CA242109-01, PO1-HL32819, 1R01HL138656-01, 5F31HL138934-03 and 1DPOD019892-01. Please note that the non-compliance is on EU DAR and not the PI who is on the grants listed.

#### Situation and Assessment

On March 22, 2019 a DAR work study student failed to appear to perform animal room checks due to an emergency. On March 23, 2019 8 mice in the animal room were found dead. The animals were new to auto-water and it is believed that the animals died from dehydration due to learning how to drink from a lixit.

The corrective actions to prevent recurrences are detailed as follows:

1. EU DAR coached the work study student on the importance of reporting absences immediately so that animal areas will be covered by other personnel.
2. Buddy checks are being strictly enforced through coaching, counseling and disciplinary actions if/when needed.
3. EU DAR Animal care supervisors check rooms each day to ensure the animal care technician has tended rooms and signed off on the daily room activity log.

The IACUC believes its investigation of this incident was thorough and the corrective actions appropriate to prevent a similar occurrence. If you have questions regarding this incident, please contact me or Dr. David Martin, Director, IACUC Office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Interim Vice President for Research Administration  
Emory University

Cc: Jeff Boatright, IACUC Chair; AAALAC

**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 03, 2019 7:53 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you for providing this final report. 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:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this final report of the death of mice at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Best,  
(b) (6)

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**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 8:35 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Martin, W David; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Good morning Dr. Morse,

We are still collecting information on these open cases. They will be completed within a two week time frame. Thank you for reaching out to us.

Best,  
(b) (6)

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 8:30 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** Martin, W David <dwmarti@emory.edu>  
**Subject:** [External] RE: Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

We would also like to take this opportunity to coordinate with Emory regarding the 10+ cases opened in June – July 2019 based on preliminary email reports from your office. Please let us know the status of these investigations and your plans for submitting final or interim reports to OLAW. Thank you.

Sincerely, 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:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 4:31 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Martin, W David <dwmarti@emory.edu>  
**Subject:** Final Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this final report of a rodent health and welfare concern at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Best,

(b) (6)



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**Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]**

A3180-5E

**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 7:51 AM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Cc:** Martin, W David  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

Thank you for providing this preliminary report Dr. Martin. We will open a case file and await further information.

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:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 5:31 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6) Martin, W David <dwmarti@emory.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Preliminary Notification Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01)

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this preliminary notification of a rodent health and welfare concerns at Emory University (Assurance #A3180-01). An incident occurred where two cages of mice (8 altogether) were found dead. The grants associated with this protocol are NIH 1U54HL141981-01, 1R01HL141335-01, 0000014757, P01 HL132819, 1 R01 HL138656-01, 5F31HL138934-03 and 1DPOD019892-01. This investigation is ongoing and corrective actions are still being completed. A final report will be upcoming.

W. David Martin PhD, CPIA  
Director, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)  
Phone: (b) (6)  
Email: [dwmarti@emory.edu](mailto:dwmarti@emory.edu)  
Internet: <http://www.iacuc.emory.edu/>

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