



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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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

February 11, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3283-01 (OLAW Case 2Q)

Dr. Milan Mrksich,
Interim Vice President for Research
Northwestern University
750 North Shore Drive, Rubloff (b) (4)
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Dr. Mrksich,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your January 15, 2020 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Northwestern University. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that on December 4, 2019, twenty-two mice were injected with Risperidone and during the morning health checks on December 5, 2019, nine mice were found deceased. Upon investigation, it was found that the pH meter electrode was broken, leading to erroneous readings which resulted in administration of Risperidone with a pH over ten. The remaining thirteen animals were humanely euthanized. This project is supported by NIH funding.

As a corrective measure, a new pH meter will be purchased and verification that the meter is working will be performed prior to use via calibration and commercially available pH standards or pH strips. Additionally, animals will be monitored twice daily after injections.

OLAW appreciates the prompt consideration of this matter by Northwestern University, which is consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate steps have been taken to investigate this incident and to attempt to prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)
Nicole Lukovsky-Akhsanov, DVM, MPH, DACLAM
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

Northwestern | RESEARCH

Milan Mrksich, PhD
Interim
Vice President for Research

Northwestern University
Henry Wade Rogers Professor
of Biomedical Engineering
Rebecca Crown Center
633 Clark Street 2-509
Evanston, Illinois 60208

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January 15, 2020

Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM, Director
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
OLAW Division of Assurance
National Institutes of Health
Suite 360 MSC 7982
6700B Rockledge Dr., Suite 2500, MSC 6910
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Dr. Morse:

I have been informed by the Northwestern University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (NU IACUC; Assurance # A3283-01) that a Principal Investigator (PI) reported to the NU IACUC that an incident involving animal occurred that lead to mortalities. This project is supported by federal funds (1 R01 MH109466-01). The incident report is as follows:

Twenty-two mice underwent Risperidone injection procedures on December 4, 2019. During the Center for Comparative Medicine (CCM) morning health checks on December 5, 2019, nine mice were found deceased. After investigation of the matter it was found that the pH meter electrode was broken, leading to erroneous pH readings. Consequently, the Risperidone administered to the animals had a pH over ten leading to nine mortalities. The remaining thirteen mice were humanely euthanized.

At the December 19, 2019 NU IACUC meeting, the Committee discussed this incident and reviewed the PI's corrective action plan, which included the following elements:

- Purchase a new pH meter.
- Verify the meter is working appropriately prior to use.
- Ensure that animals are monitored twice daily after injections.

The Committee agreed that the plan was adequate to prevent a recurrence of this error, but implemented additional requirements:

- Calibrate the pH meter prior to use.
- Verify with commercially available pH standards or assess with pH strips.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Milan Mrksich, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Research
Institutional Official

cc:

(b) (6)

C. Heckman, Ph.D., Chair-IACUC
M. Kozlowski, MSL, CPIA, Director IACUC Office
K. L. Spina, Asst. Director ASRSP

Morse, Brent (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:49 PM
To: VP Research; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Cc: (b) (6) CJ Heckman; Mandy J Kozlowski; Karen L Spina
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Northwestern University

Thank you for providing this final report (b) (6) 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: VP Research [mailto:VP-Research@northwestern.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:14 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) CJ Heckman <c-heckman@northwestern.edu>; Mandy J Kozlowski <m-kozlowski@northwestern.edu>; Karen L Spina <kspina@northwestern.edu>
Subject: Correspondence from Northwestern University

Dear Dr. Morse.

Attached please find correspondence from Northwestern University.

(b) (6)

On behalf of Milan Mrksich

(b) (6)

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