



A 3668-1H

May 11, 2006

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

Dear Dr. Wolff:

This report is a follow-up to a verbal report made on February 22, 2006 concerning several different events.

Two mice drowned in a basement animal facility when a pipe burst on the 5th floor of the building. Outside temperatures in the area had been at the -25°F level for successive nights. The pipe that burst supplied a fire suppression sprinkler system; therefore the fire department was the first responder. Facility personnel were on the scene within 20 minutes; the water leaking into the basement was discovered within an hour. Unfortunately, the two animals had already died.

Two investigators had their protocols suspended when they failed to reply to requests for annual update information. There was no animal mishandling; the suspensions were administrative only. The investigators following notification of the suspension promptly provided the required information. One of these investigators is the recipient of NIH funding.

A different investigator and his laboratory manager have had their animal use privileges revoked for a period of at least one year. This action was taken as a result of: 1) the lab's inattentiveness to the directives of a laboratory animal veterinarian, which resulted in the death of a mouse; 2) the unresponsiveness by the investigator and laboratory manager to requests from the IACUC for an explanation for their lack of action in this instance; 3) a history of sluggish responses on the part of the laboratory to requests from the IACUC for such things as protocol clarifications, animal numbers justification, and improved animal care documentation; and 4) a history of repeated minor occupational safety noncompliances (e.g., food in the laboratory). This investigator has no PHS funding.

Graduate School

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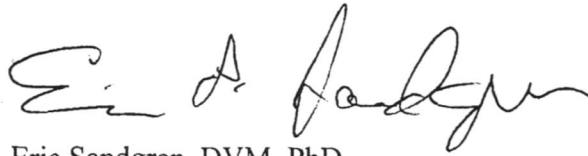
Dr. Axel Wolff
May 11, 2006
Page 2

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Janet Welter at 608/265-2695.

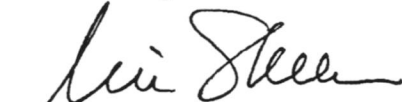
Sincerely,



Janet Welter, DVM, MPH, PhD
Diplomate ACLAM
Chief Campus Veterinarian



Eric Sandgren, DVM, PhD
Acting Director, Animal Care and Use Program



William S. Mellon
Associate Dean for Research Policy



Martin Cadwallader
Vice Chancellor for Research
and Dean of the Graduate School

xc: Kathryn Bayne, AAALAC



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
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FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

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

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

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May 22, 2006

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3368-01 [OLAW Case 1H]

Dr. William S. Mellon
Associate Dean for Research Policy
University of Wisconsin-Madison
3450 Veterinary Medicine Building
Madison, WI 53706-5169

Dear Dr. Mellon,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your May 11, 2006 letter reporting accidental animal deaths, protocol suspensions, and an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, following up on an initial telephone report on February 22, 2006. According to the information provided, OLAW understands the following about the various incidents:

- 1) Two research mice drowned after a pipe burst due to cold outside temperatures. Staff responded immediately to fix the problem.
- 2) Two protocols were suspended due to the investigators not providing annual update information to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The protocols were reinstated upon receipt of the requested information.
- 3) An investigator and laboratory manager had their animal use privileges suspended after not responding to the veterinarian or the IACUC and having a mouse die. This group reportedly has a history of not responding to the IACUC and for minor safety violations.

Based on its assessment of these explanations, OLAW understands that corrective measures have been implemented in all three cases and concurs with the actions taken. In future noncompliance reports to OLAW please provide relevant grant numbers when the case involved is PHS-supported. Thank you for keeping OLAW apprised on these matters.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Eric Sandgren, Ph.D., IACUC Chair

A3368-1H



Initial Report of Noncompliance

Date: 2/22/06

Time: 2:30

Name of Person reporting: Dr. Janet Walter
 Telephone #:
 Fax #:
 Email:

Name of Institution: U of Wisconsin - Madison
 Assurance number: A3368

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? No
 Funding component: _____
 Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened? Vet told PI to euthanize or treat mouse + this wasn't done + mouse died.

Species involved: Mouse
 Personnel involved:
 Dates and times:
 Animal deaths: 1

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

PI + tech had animal use privileges suspended,

ALSO, A pipe burst + 2 mice drowned but I said they didn't need to report this since staff were right on site +
 Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official: filed right.

OFFICE USE ONLY
 Case # _____

