



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

FOR US POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERY:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Rockledge Drive, Suite 2500
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-6910
Home Page: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>

FOR EXPRESS MAIL:

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Bethesda, Maryland 20817
Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Facsimile: (301) 402-7065

March 23, 2022

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
A3551-01 [OLAW Case 1E]

Dr., Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
(b) (4) Whitmore Admin. Building
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003

Dear Dr. Malone,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your March 18, 2022 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Massachusetts- Amherst, following up on an initial telephone report on March 7, 2022. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that ten hamsters had been housed under experimental conditions longer than approved on the protocol. Specifically, the animals had been approved to be held in total darkness for a specific timeframe but the investigators substantially increased the timeframe without Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval. The hamsters are reportedly in good health. The project is supported by NSF award # IOS 1656838.

The corrective actions consisted of amending the protocol to extend the time for housing in darkness, counseling the Principal Investigator and staff to follow the protocol as approved, informing the animal care staff about the approved change in the protocol, and placing the laboratory under enhanced post-approval monitoring.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair
NSF Officer
Robert Gibbens, D.V.M., USDA-APHIS-AC

March 18, 2022

Dr. Axel Wolff, D.V.M.
Office of the Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: PHS Assurance # D16-00337 (A3551-01)

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In accordance with PHS policy, I provide you a **Final Report** of non-compliance that recently occurred on our campus. The matter was initially reported to you over the phone by (b) (6) on March 7, 2022. This report pertains to research funded by NSF award # IOS 1656838 and covered by IACUC approved protocol #1619 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

As an approved exception to standard husbandry, Syrian Hamsters on this protocol are raised in constant darkness. However, ten Syrian Hamsters were discovered to be housed in constant dark conditions beyond the length approved by the IACUC. The animals are all in good health.

The corrective measures being put into place are as follows:

- PI has submitted an amendment (which has been approved) to extend the time in constant darkness and these animals will be used in the next 30 days.
- PI and Post-Doc will be counseled on consequences of working off protocol.
- Additional training on approved timelines will be communicated to the primary animal caretaker for this protocol.
- A member of the IACUC will visit this room monthly at a minimum for the next year to monitor timing of all animals housed in these conditions.

These corrective measures will eliminate recurrence of this event.

Please contact us if there are further questions or if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Michael F. Malone
Vice Chancellor for Research & Engagement
Institutional Official

Cc: Jesse Mager, IACUC Chair

(b) (6)

Dr. Betty Goldentyer, D.V.M., Eastern Regional Director, USDA APHIS Animal Care, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606
Evan Balaban, NSF program officer, ebalaban@nsf.gov

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 7:12 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: UMASS Amherst

Thank you for this report. We will send a response soon.
Axel Wolff

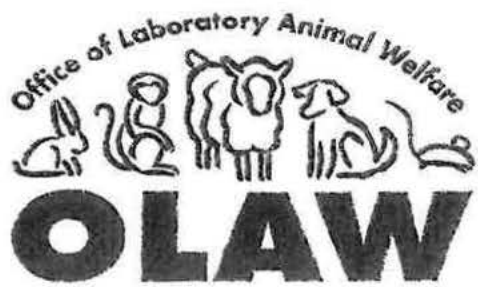
From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 2:40 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] UMASS Amherst

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and are confident the content is safe.

Please find attached our final report. We are looking forward to your response.

(b) (6)





Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b) (6)

Date: 3/7/22

Time: 1130

Name of Person reporting: (b) (6)
Telephone #: (b) (6)
Fax #:
Email:

Name of Institution: U of Massachusetts - Amherst
Assurance number: A3551

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? NO-NSF
Funding component: _____
Was funding component contacted (if necessary): IOS-1656838

What happened?
10 hamsters housed beyond approval date of 100 days. Done over by 2x or more. Hamsters seem ok.

Species involved: Hamster
Personnel involved:
Dates and times:
Animal deaths:

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____
Amend protocol, Counsel P.I.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY
Case # _____