



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) 480-3387

June 21, 2024

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
A3456-01 [OLAW Case 11C]

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Minnesota – Main Campus  
(b) (4) 101 Pleasant St. SE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Priya,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your June 12, 2024, letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at the University of Minnesota. This letter had not been preceded by a preliminary report to OLAW.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the University of Minnesota Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to failure to adhere to IACUC-approved protocols. The final report states that on February 26, 2024, 10 mice experienced complications (i.e., incision site dehiscence) following an approved surgical procedure and showed signs of pain post-operatively. Per the report, burns were also observed on some mice due to prolonged use of a depilatory product (Nair) to remove fur during surgical preparation. It is understood that post-operative monitoring records indicated that lab staff checked the mice daily for three days and had not noted any concerns with their recovery. One mouse was found dead, and the remaining 9 mice required euthanasia, which was performed promptly by lab staff after notification of the issue. The report also states that Research Animal Resources (RAR) veterinarians determined that six additional mice that had surgery on the same date were in good health and able to continue on the study.

Per the final report, the IACUC approved of the following corrective actions:

- The Principal Investigator confirmed that the lab member who performed the surgery and post-operative monitoring on the affected mice will not be permitted to perform any further surgeries in the lab. All other surgeons in the lab underwent retraining by taking hands on courses in aseptic technique and suturing and rodent anesthesia (a session for one lab member remains to be scheduled at this time and is being actively followed up for completion).
- Increase the duration of post-operative monitoring from three days to eight days and modify monitoring forms to assess additional signs of potential complications and specify the response to them.
- Reduce the duration of exposure to Nair for fur removal, and remove it with saline, to prevent potential irritation or chemical burns.
- Amend IACUC protocols to describe the potential for repair of incision site dehiscence, with veterinary consultation. Only a single attempt at repair is allowed, with euthanasia required if unsuccessful.

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June 21, 2024  
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Furthermore, the IACUC considers the matter closed pending completion of training by the final lab member. Future compliance will be monitored during semi-annual inspections, including review of surgical and post-operative records.

It is noted that this study is supported by PHS funding. Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that University of Minnesota has implemented measures to correct and prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the University Minnesota Animal Care and Use Committee to comply with the PHS Policy.

We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Angelina M.

Williams -S

Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM

Animal Welfare Program Specialist

Animal Welfare Policy

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Angelina M.  
Williams -S

Date: 2024.06.21 09:23:22 -04'00'

cc: IACUC Contact

A3456-11C

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

(b) (4)

420 Delaware St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(b) (6)

[iacuc@umn.edu](mailto:iacuc@umn.edu)  
[www.research.umn.edu/iacuc](http://www.research.umn.edu/iacuc)

June 12, 2024

TO: Axel Wolff, DVM  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
RKL1, Suite 360, MSC 7982  
6705 Rockledge Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7982

RE: University of Minnesota Animal Care Program D16-00288 (A-3456-01)  
NIH Grant Number: 2R01 HL116476-05A1  
UMN IACUC # 39551A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of non-compliance of an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving mice. The basis of this report results from an issue that was initially noted during a semi-annual IACUC inspection and was followed up with a self-report from lab staff. The observation and report outlined that on February 26, 2024, 10 mice experienced unexpected complications following an approved surgical procedure. Mice were observed with dehiscence at their incision sites and showed signs of pain. Burns were also observed on some mice due to prolonged use of Nair to remove fur during surgical preparation. Post-operative monitoring records were reviewed and indicated that lab staff had checked the mice daily during the recently ended three-day post-operative period and had not noted any concerns with their recovery.

One mouse was found dead and nine required euthanasia, which was performed promptly by lab staff after notification of the issue. Six additional mice who had surgery on the same date were assessed by RAR veterinarians and found to be in good health and able to continue on the study.

The PI confirmed that the lab member who performed the surgery and post-operative monitoring on the affected mice will not be permitted to perform any further surgeries in the lab. All other surgeons in the lab underwent retraining by taking hands on courses in aseptic technique and suturing and rodent anesthesia (one session for one lab member remains to be scheduled at this time and is being actively followed up for completion).

In addition, the lab met with veterinarians to develop modifications to their surgical practices. These changes were applied to all rodent surgeries on all protocols in the lab:

- Increase the duration of post-operative monitoring from three days to eight days and modify monitoring forms to assess additional signs of potential complications and specify the response to them.
- Reduce the duration of exposure to Nair for fur removal, and remove it with saline, to prevent potential irritation or chemical burns.
- Amend IACUC protocols to describe the potential for repair of incision site dehiscence, with veterinary consultation. Only a single attempt at repair is allowed, with euthanasia required if unsuccessful.

The IACUC approved this corrective action plan and considers the matter closed pending completion of training by the final lab member. Future compliance will be monitored during semi-annual inspections, including review of surgical and post-operative records.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research and Innovation  
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota  
200 Oak Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

CC: Erin Dickerson, Chair, IACUC  
Nate Koewler, Institutional Veterinarian  
AAALAC

**Ware, Teagan (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 7:27 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6); Erin Dickerson; Nate Koewler; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

Good morning,

Thank you for providing these two reports, which have been assigned as OLAW cases **A3456-11C (IACUC #39551A)** and **A3456-11D (IACUC #41198A-2)**. We will send official responses soon.

Best,  
Teagan

Teagan Ware, MS, PMP  
Animal Welfare Program Analyst  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390  
Email: [teagan.ware@nih.gov](mailto:teagan.ware@nih.gov)

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**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 5:27 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** (b) (6); [iecohen@umn.edu](mailto:iecohen@umn.edu); [accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org); Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Non-Compliance Reports

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of VPR Shashank Priya, please find the two attached reports of non-compliance.

Best,

(b) (6)

**(b) (6)**