



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

October 25, 2024

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

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 October 23, 2024, letter reporting an adverse event 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 an adverse event occurred with respect to conditions that have the potential to jeopardize the health or well-being of animals, resulting in harm or death to animals. The final report states that on August 22, 2024, a cohort of mice were injected with an approved experimental substance and later became ill about 50 hours post-injection. Per the report, of the 16 affected mice, half of the animals died, and the remaining mice were euthanized due to signs of distress. It is also understood that an investigation was unable to identify the cause of the unexpected morbidity and mortality. Endotoxin testing of the experimental substance, including the aliquot used on the day of the adverse event, was completed and all samples were below the limit of detection of the assay.

Per the final report, the lab staff will further dilute the compound and use a smaller syringe for increased precision in dosing to ensure that mice are not being inadvertently overdosed. The compound will also be filtered before injection to ensure sterility. A small subset of mice will be injected and monitored closely to ensure no unexpected adverse effects, before proceeding with the next larger experimental cohort. Additionally, any future concerns will be monitored by lab communication to veterinary staff, and by annual post-approval monitoring by the IACUC. With this, the IACUC determined the corrective action plan was adequate, and no further action was required.

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 recommends retraining of any additional lab staff that may have access to animal housing room. 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
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

Digitally signed by Angelina
M. Williams -S
Date: 2024.10.25 10:07:23
-04'00'

cc: IACUC Contact

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Office

(b) (4)

200 Oak St SE (b) (4)
Minneapolis, MN 55455

(b) (6)

iacuc@umn.eduwww.research.umn.edu/units/iacuc

October 23, 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: 1R21CA288782-01A1
UMN IACUC # 41864A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of an unanticipated adverse event on an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving mice. The basis of this report results from a self-reported incident. The report outlined that on August 22, 2024, a cohort of mice became ill following an approved injection of an experimental substance.

22 mice were injected intraperitoneally with azoxymethane as part of an experimental tumor induction procedure, and 40 to 50 hours later, 16 of the mice became ill. Eight mice died and the remaining eight affected mice were euthanized due to signs of distress. The lab consulted RAR veterinary staff for assistance.

The cause of this unexpected morbidity and mortality was investigated but ultimately could not be definitively identified. Endotoxin testing of the lab's stock of azoxymethane, including the aliquot used on the day of the adverse event, was completed and all samples were below the limit of detection of the assay. To ensure that mice are not being inadvertently overdosed, lab staff will further dilute the compound and use a smaller syringe for increased precision in dosing. The compound will also be filtered before injection to ensure sterility. A small subset of mice will be injected and monitored closely to ensure no unexpected adverse effects, before proceeding with the next larger experimental cohort.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. In addition to the lab's plan described above, any future concerns will be monitored by lab communication to veterinary staff, and by annual post-approval monitoring by the IACUC.

(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]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:08 AM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Nate Koewler; (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for NIH Grant 1R21CA288782-01A1

Good morning,

Thank you for providing this report, which has been assigned as OLAW case **A3456-11F**. We will send an official response 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

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From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2024 8:00 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: (b) (6) Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; (b) (6) >; accredit@aaalac.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for NIH Grant 1R21CA288782-01A1

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Attached please find the non-compliance letter sent on behalf of VP Priya.

Best,

(b) (6)

(b) (6)