



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

January 19, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance  
#A3456-01 [OLAW Case 101]  
UMN IACUC #39817A

Dr. Shashank Priya  
Vice President for Research  
University of Minnesota  
(b) (4) Johnston Hall - 101 Pleasant St., SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Priya,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your December 20, 2022 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 an animal sustaining a thermal injury from a heating device. The final report states on October 4, 2022, a Rhesus macaque that underwent an approved surgical procedure experienced elevated body temperature. In response, the heating equipment was adjusted and during a follow-up CT scan, a wound consistent with a thermal burn was found on the animal. The lab immediately informed the veterinary staff, treatment was initiated and ultimately the burns healed well.

Per the report, it is believed a heating device used during surgery resulted in the injury to the animal. It is understood that two types of heating devices were in use, a HotDog Veterinary Warming System and reusable chemical (sodium acetate) heat packs. Towels were used to prevent direct contact between the animal and all heat sources. It is stated the animal was not in direct contact with the heat source, and the lab contacted the manufacturer of the heating device to ensure it is functioning correctly. In the future, the lab will monitor heat exposure with a thermometer between the animal and the heating device and will use additional layers of towels as a barrier between the heat support and the animal. Also, the lab will implement a new SOP to chair the animal post-operatively within the first 2-3 days to fully inspect the body condition of the animal.

It is noted that this animal is supported by PHS funding, and the corrective actions were deemed appropriate. OLAW recommends implementing these corrective actions program-wide to prevent similar issues in other labs and consider developing an IACUC policy or veterinary SOP regarding appropriate heating devices for animals (e.g., recirculating water blanket, etc.).

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that the University of Minnesota has implemented appropriate measures to correct and prevent recurrences of these problems and is now compliant with provisions of the PHS Policy.

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

*Page 2 – Dr. Priya  
January 19, 2023  
OLAW Case A3456-10I*

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S

Digitally signed by Jacquelyn T.  
Tubbs -S  
Date: 2023.01.19 07:59:37 -05'00'

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DAACLAM  
Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact  
Robert M. Gibbens, DVM, Director, Animal Welfare Operations

A3456-10I

**McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 3:17 PM  
**To:** (b) (6) OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect

Hello,

Thank you for the clarification, and I have no further questions.

Kind Regards,

J. Tubbs

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 2:28 PM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect

Dear Dr. Tubbs,  
Below please find the response to your question about the heating pad.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Date:** Tue, Jan 17, 2023 at 1:09 PM  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** (b) (6)

Hi (b) (6)

Here is the response to their question:

Dear OLAW,

A standard electric heating pad was not used. There were two types of heating devices in use during this incident, a HotDog Veterinary Warming System and reusable chemical (sodium acetate) heat packs. Towels were used to prevent direct contact between the animal and all heat sources.

thanks,  
(b) (6)

On Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 9:32 AM OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

I am reviewing the final report regarding the incident that occurred in October 2022. Regarding the heating device that caused a thermal injury, was it an electric heating pad? I'm seeking clarity on the type of device that was used. Please let me know when you can.

Kind Regards,

Jacquelyn Tubbs, DVM, DACLAM

Senior Animal Welfare Program Specialist

Division of Compliance Oversight

Please note that this message and any of its attachments are intended for the named recipient(s) only and may contain confidential, protected or privileged information that should not be distributed to unauthorized individuals. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender.

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:15 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** [accredit@aaalac.org](mailto:accredit@aaalac.org); Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; Shashank Priya <spriya@umn.edu>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of Vice President for Research Shashank Priya, attached please find a report of an adverse effect that occurred during an IACUC approved, NIH study.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,



A3456-10I

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Twin Cities Campus*

*Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)*

*Mayo Mail Code 79  
D-528 Mayo Memorial Building  
420 Delaware St. SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Phone: 612-626-2126  
Fax: 612-626-6061  
[iacuc@umn.edu](mailto:iacuc@umn.edu)  
[www.research.umn.edu/iacuc](http://www.research.umn.edu/iacuc)*

December 20, 2022

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: R01NS117822  
UMN IACUC #39817A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

In keeping with the terms of our assurance, please be informed that we are making a report of an adverse event that occurred on an IACUC approved, NIH funded study involving one Rhesus macaque. The basis of this report results from an adverse event that was reported to the IACUC by the research group. The report outlined that on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, a non-human primate undergoing an approved surgery experienced elevated body temperature. The lab took action to turn down heating equipment. During a follow up CT scan, a wound consistent with a thermal burn was found on the animal's lower abdomen and a secondary burn site was noted on the flank. Upon discovering the burn, the lab immediately notified veterinary staff and treatment began promptly. The animal was treated with oral analgesics and topical antibiotic cream under veterinary direction, and the burns have healed well.

It is believed that the burns were caused by a heating device in use during the surgery, although an approved model was used, and the animal was not in direct contact with the heat source. To prevent future adverse events, the lab contacted the manufacturer of the heating device to ensure it is functioning correctly and for future procedures will monitor heat exposure with a thermometer between the animal and the heating device and will place additional layers of towels between heat support and the animal. Because postoperative inspection of the animal's body condition did not immediately reveal the burns and the animal's posture in the cage did not allow for full body inspection, the lab will implement a new SOP, when possible, to chair the animal post-operatively within the first 2-3 days to fully inspect the body condition of the animal.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. We believe that the lab followed proper procedures to notify veterinary staff of the adverse event and to manage the animal's recovery under veterinary direction, and that they have taken appropriate steps to avoid future adverse events of this nature.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Shashank Priya  
Vice President for Research  
Institutional Official, University of Minnesota  
101 Pleasant Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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

**McCoy, Devora (NIH/OD) [E]**

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**From:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2022 7:56 AM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect

Good morning (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report and we will send an official response soon.

Best,  
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA  
Program Analyst  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health  
301-435-2390

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:15 AM  
**To:** OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>  
**Cc:** accredit@aaalac.org; Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; (b) (6)  
(b) (6) Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; Shashank Priya <spriya@umn.edu>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Report of an adverse effect

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of Vice President for Research Shashank Priya, attached please find a report of an adverse effect that occurred during an IACUC approved, NIH study. Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Thank you,

(b) (6)