



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

May 16, 2023

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3456-01 [OLAW Case 10M]
UMNC IACUC #38447A

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 April 14, 2023 letter reporting an instance of noncompliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals within the animal care and use program at the University of Minnesota. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that 1 rat on an IACUC-approved food restriction study was found dead. The protocol involves mild food restriction to encourage motivation in behavioral tests. The protocol states that rats should be euthanized if they drop below 90% of free-feeding weight and do not return to the target weight after 5 days of providing additional food. The affected rat had fallen below the target weight 8 days before it was found dead. The laboratory staff provided additional food but did not euthanize the animal within the approved time frame or contact veterinary staff for assistance. The rat involved in this incident was supported by NIH funding.

Corrective and preventive measures included retraining of the laboratory staff on approved food restriction procedures and the importance of adhering to them. Additionally, the IACUC protocol has been amended to require that all rats undergoing food restriction be weighed twice weekly, rather than once weekly as originally approved. Future compliance will be monitored through annual post-approval monitoring inspections.

OLAW appreciates the consideration of this matter by the University of Minnesota which was consistent with the philosophy of institutional self-regulation. Based on the information provided, OLAW is satisfied that appropriate actions have been taken to investigate this incident and prevent recurrence. We appreciate being informed of this matter and find no cause for further action by this office.

Sincerely,

Robyn M. Engel -S Digitally signed by Robyn M. Engel -S
Date: 2023.05.16 07:36:46 -04'00'

Robyn M. Engel, DVM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC contact

A3456-10M

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

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D-528 Mayo Memorial Building
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612-626-2126
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iacuc@umn.edu
www.research.umn.edu/iacuc*

April 14, 2023

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: NIDA U01DA051977
UMN IACUC #38447A

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 rats. The basis of this report results from a self-reported incident. The report outlined that on March 27, 2023, one rat on an IACUC-approved food restriction study died, and proper procedures for management of food-restricted animals had not been followed by lab staff.

The IACUC protocol is approved for mild food restriction, to a target of 90% of free-feeding weight, to increase motivation to engage in behavioral tasks. The bodyweight of the affected rat had fallen below the target weight for 8 days before the rat was found deceased. During this time, lab staff provided the rat with additional food and increased palatability of food, but these measures were ineffective in restoring weight to the target level. The approved protocol states that any rat that drops below 90% of free-feeding weight and does not return to the target weight after 5 days of providing additional food should be euthanized. This incident represents a deviation from the approved protocol, as the rat was not euthanized in the stated timeframe. Additionally, lab staff did not contact veterinary staff for assistance as required for health concerns.

We want to inform you that we consider this matter closed. The PI has retrained all lab staff on approved food restriction procedures and the importance of adhering to them. Additionally, the IACUC protocol has been amended to require that all rats undergoing food restriction be weighed a minimum of twice weekly, rather than once weekly as originally approved, to promote earlier detection of weight concerns. Future compliance will be monitored through annual post approval monitoring inspections.

Sincerely,
 (b) (6)

Shashank Priya, Ph.D.
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]

From: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:51 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Report of Non-Compliance

Good afternoon (b) (6)

Thank you for sending us this report, assigned OLAW case number A3456-10M, and we will send an official response soon.

Best,
Devora

Devora McCoy, BS, MBA ([pronunciation](#))
Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: devora.mccoy@nih.gov

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:35 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; accredit@aaalac.org; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Report of Non-Compliance

Dear Dr. Wolff,

On behalf of Vice President Shashank Priya, attached please find a report of non-compliance. Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

(b) (6)