



Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Telephone: (301) 496-7163
Home Page: <https://olaw.nih.gov>

December 4, 2025

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

Joanne Billings, MD, MPH
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Minnesota – Main Campus
(b) (4)
200 Oak St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Billings,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your November 12, 2025, 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. It is noted that this study is supported by PHS funding.

According to the information provided, this office understands that the University of Minnesota Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) determined that instances of noncompliance occurred with respect to failure to adhere to IACUC-approved protocols. The final report states that post-operative analgesics were not administered as described in the protocol to 309 mice, between July 2025 and September 2025. Although the protocol was amended in June 2025 to clarify the number of doses of carprofen to be given post-surgically, the lab misinterpreted the language in the protocol. The final report further states that no signs of pain or distress was reported for these animals during post-operative monitoring checks.

Per the final report, the Principal Investigator (PI) has confirmed that all surgeons understand and will follow the 4-dose analgesic regimen. Also, the PI will review surgical records on a bi-monthly basis and the IACUC will monitor future compliance through semi-annual surgical inspections and annual post-approval monitoring. With this, the IACUC determined the corrective action plan was adequate, and no further action was required.

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 this matter and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Angelina M. Williams -S Digitally signed by Angelina M. Williams -S
Date: 2025.12.04 17:19:38 -05'00'

Angelina Williams, DVM, MPH, DACLAM, DACVPM
Animal Welfare Program Specialist
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Contact

*Twin Cities Campus**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Office*

(b) (4)

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

Phone: (b) (6)

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

November 12, 2025

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 Numbers: R01CA255039, R01CA249393, P01CA254849
UMN IACUC #41080A

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 a procedural post-approval monitoring inspection. During follow-up records review related to a post-approval monitoring inspection that took place on September 18, 2025, it was noted that only three total doses (day 0, 1, 2) of post-operative analgesics were administered rather than the four doses (day 0, 1, 2, 3) approved in the protocol. A protocol amendment approved in June 2025 was intended to clarify the number of doses of carprofen to be given for a surgical procedure involving injection of tumor cells to the pancreas, but lab staff misinterpreted the protocol language as three total doses rather than three post-operative days plus day of surgery. A total of 309 mice were administered the three-dose regimen between July and September 2025.

No signs of pain or distress were reported for these mice during routine post-operative monitoring checks, but there was the potential for insufficient analgesia as the approved regimen was not followed.

We want to inform you that we believe appropriate steps have been taken to prevent recurrence and that we consider this matter closed. The PI has confirmed that all surgeons now understand and will follow the four-dose analgesic regimen. The PI will review surgical records on a bi-monthly basis to ensure staff are following all guidelines. The IACUC will monitor future compliance through semi-annual surgical inspections and annual post-approval monitoring.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Joanne Billings, MD, MPH
Associate Vice President for Research Integrity and Compliance
Deputy 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, November 13, 2025 1:12 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Joanne Billings; Erin Dickerson; Nate Koewler; (b) (6); OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for UMN IACUC #41080A

Good afternoon,

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

***Disclaimer:** 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.*

Best,
Teagan

Teagan Ware, MS, PMP
Animal Welfare Program Analyst
Division of Compliance Oversight
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive (RKL 1), MSC 7983

Phone: 301-435-2390
Email: teagan.ware@nih.gov

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 10:59 AM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Joanne Billings <billi001@umn.edu>; Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; AAALAC International <accredit@aaalac.org>; (b) (6)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for UMN IACUC #41080A

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Attached please find the non-compliance letter sent on behalf of Deputy IO Billings.

Thank you,

(b) (6)

