



March 3, 2026

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

Joanne Billings, MD, MPH
Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation
University of Minnesota – Main Campus
224 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear Dr. Billings,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your February 26, 2026, 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 10 mice undergoing surgical procedures did not receive analgesics, per the regimen described in the protocol.

Per the final report, the IACUC approved the corrective actions. In summary, the Principal Investigator met with the lab and directed all personnel performing surgeries to review the procedures and administer multi-modal analgesia as outlined in the approved protocol. The IACUC recommended changes to the lab's recordkeeping forms for improved documentation of all required doses. Future compliance will be monitored through review of surgical records during semi-annual inspections. 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 these matters and find no cause for further action by this Office.

Sincerely,

Angelina M. Williams -S

Digitally signed by Angelina M.

Williams -S

Date: 2026.03.03 09:30:07 -05'00'

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

cc: IACUC Contact

February 26, 2026

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)

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 combined semi-annual and post-approval monitoring inspection that included review of surgical records. The report outlined that between July 21st, 2025, and February 4th, 2026, lab staff did not administer the approved analgesic regimen to a total of 10 mice undergoing cranial surgery. While all animals did receive analgesics, they did not receive the complete multimodal analgesic regimen that had recently been approved in the protocol. Daily post-operative monitoring was completed by lab staff, and no signs of pain were noted in the records.

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 discussed this issue with the lab and directed all personnel performing surgeries to review the procedures in the approved protocol and to administer multi-modal analgesia as approved. The IACUC has also recommended changes to the lab's recordkeeping forms to better prompt all required doses. Future compliance will be monitored through semi-annual inspections with review of surgical records.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Joanne Billings, MD, MPH
Interim 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: Friday, February 27, 2026 2:08 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Erin Dickerson; Nate Koewler; OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD); (b) (6)
Joanne Billings
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for NIH Grant

Good afternoon,

Thank you for providing this report, which has been assigned as OLAW case **A3456-11U**. 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: Friday, February 27, 2026 1:58 PM
To: OLAW Division of Compliance Oversight (NIH/OD) <olawdco@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Erin Dickerson <edickers@umn.edu>; Nate Koewler <koew0004@umn.edu>; (b) (6)
Joanne Billings <billi001@umn.edu>; accredit@aaalac.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OLAW non-compliance report for NIH Grant

Dear Dr. Wolff,

Attached please find the non-compliance report sent on behalf of VP Billings.

Kindly,
(b) (6)

