



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

August 5, 2020

Re: Animal Welfare Assurance
#A3989-01 (OLAW Case E)

Dr. Devendra Agrwal
Sr. VP for Research and Biotechnology
Western University of Health Sciences –
Pomona
309 E. Second Street
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Dr. Agrwal,

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) acknowledges receipt of your August 3, 2020 letter reporting a serious deviation from the provisions of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals at Western University of Health Sciences, following up on an initial telephone report on July 31, 2020. According to the information provided, OLAW understands that seven mice died of dehydration because the sticker had not been removed from the sipper tube's opening. Two other cages had improperly placed water bottles and one mouse died of dehydration. The problems had not been detected during the daily health check and the carcasses were discarded and not submitted for necropsy.

The immediate action taken upon discovery consisted of removing the sticker. The corrective action consisted of having at least two animal caretakers check all cages for the presence of food/water. Also animal care staff was counseled to report all dead animals to the Attending Veterinarian and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) chair and to place carcasses in the refrigerator for possible necropsy. The Principal Investigator was directed to counsel staff to double check all cages for food and water when in the animal room.

Based on its assessment of this explanation, OLAW understands that measures have been implemented to prevent recurrence of this problem. OLAW concurs with the actions taken by the IACUC to comply with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Axel Wolff, M.S., D.V.M.
Deputy Director
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare

cc: IACUC Chair



Devendra K. Agrawal, PhD (Biochem), PhD (Med Sciences), MBA, MS (ITM), FAAAAI, FAHA, FAPS, FIACS
Senior Vice-President for Research & Biotechnology
Professor, Department of Translational Research

August 3, 2020

Axel Wolff, DVM
Deputy Director, Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare
BG 6700B Rm 2528
6700B Rockledge Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20817
axel.wolff@nih.gov.

Dear Dr. Wolff,

The following report is a follow-up to the preliminary report submitted to you by Dr. Donald Walters, IACUC Chair, on July 31, 2020. Our Institutional Assurance number is D16-00558 (A3989-01).

On Sunday, July 26, 2020, while making routine health checks, an animal care technician found a dead animal in a cage housing five-month-old hairless mice that were control animals for a research project supported by NIH grant 20147. He attributed this death to dehydration because the water bottle did not have the sticker removed from the water opening and thus the animals were denied access to water. He removed the sticker to allow the animals access to water and placed a note on the cage regarding the dead animal and lack of water. However, five or six more of these animals died over the next two days presumably as a consequence of the previous lack of water. Regrettably, the animal carcasses were disposed of before a necropsy could be performed. During this same time frame, two other cages housing experimental mice were found with improperly placed water bottles. This situation was not observed during the health check reported above. As of the date of this letter, only one of these mice has died. As it is not possible to prove with certainty who was responsible for the misplaced water bottles, the following corrective action plan has been implemented:

Animal Care Personnel

- At least two animal care personnel must check the food and water of all cages housing animals to verify that adequate food and water is available at all times.
 - 909.469.7040 • 909-469-5577 fax • dagrawal@westernu.edu
 - 309 East Second Street • Pomona, CA 91766-1854 USA • www.westernu.edu

- Reinforce that discovery of a dead animal must be immediately reported to the Attending Veterinarian (AV) and the IACUC Chair and that animal carcasses must be placed in the refrigerator dedicated for this purpose for possible necropsy at the discretion of the AV.

Principal Investigator

- The PI has been instructed to counsel her staff that when in the vivarium for any reason to double check all cages for proper food and water.

After reviewing this report, if you have any suggestion or comment to further improve the process, please let me know.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Devendra K. Agrawal

PhD (Biochem), PhD (Med. Sciences), MBA, MS (ITM)
FAAAAI, FAHA, FAPS, FIACS

*Senior Vice President for Research & Biotechnology
Professor, Department of Translational Research*

Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]

From: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E]
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Devendra K. Agrawal
Subject: RE: Official Report of an incidence to OLAW

Thank you for this final report, Dr. Agrawal. We will send a response soon.

Axel Wolff

From: Devendra K. Agrawal <dagrawal@westernu.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 1:09 PM
To: Wolff, Axel (NIH/OD) [E] <wolffa@od.nih.gov>
Cc: Donald E. Walters <dewalters@westernu.edu>; [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: Official Report of an incidence to OLAW

Dear Dr. Wolff,
Attached is the letter to follow up on our report of an incidence.

Sincerely,
Devendra

Devendra K. Agrawal

PhD (Biochem), PhD (Med. Sciences), MBA, MS (ITM)
FAAAAI, FAHA, FAPS, FIACS

*Senior Vice President for Research & Biotechnology
Professor, Department of Translational Research*

Western University of Health Sciences
309 East Second Street
Pomona, California 91766-1854 USA

[REDACTED] (b) (6) Office
Fax

DAgrawal@WesternU.edu
dka39455@gmail.com



Initial Report of Noncompliance

By: (b)(6)

Date: 7/31/20

Time: 1:30

Name of Person reporting: Don Walters

Telephone #: (b)(6)

Fax #:

Email:

Name of Institution: WESTERN UNIVERSITY of Health Sciences - Portland

Assurance number: A3989

Did incident involve PHS funded activity? _____

Funding component: _____

Was funding component contacted (if necessary): _____

What happened?

8 mice died of dehydration due to sticks on sipper tube

Species involved: *Mice*

Personnel involved:

Dates and times:

Animal deaths: *8*

Projected plan and schedule for correction/prevention (if known): _____

Counsel research + animal care staff. Have staff double check cages.

Projected submission to OLAW of final report from Institutional Official:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Case # _____