

# MINUTES LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 21, 2018 (3074 Bondurant Hall)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Todd O'Buckley, Jim Potts

**Members Absent:** Kimberlie Burns, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

**Guests:** Garry Coulson, Jonathan Moore

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

## Biosafety Overview and new BSO

EHS Biosafety Officer Garry Coulson introduced himself to the committee and gave an overview of the Biological Safety section's roles and responsibilities. Coulson also presented a summary of [Institutional Biosafety Committee \(IBC\)](#) responsibilities and metrics.

## Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP) 2017 Summary

Associate Radiation Safety Officer, Jonathan Moore gave the 2017 summary metrics for the laboratory inspection program. As seen in past years, radiation labs have decreased which leads to an overall reduction in the number of EHS visits. An increase in citations regarding: not keeping your chemical inventory up to date, improper handling/collection of sharps, emergency contact info not displayed, unsupported gas cylinders, containers of hazardous waste not properly labeled and improper use of extension cords/power strips was seen. Online compliance program reminders are helping with compliance as the citation related to submitting the annual update for your lab safety plan has decreased approximately 70% since online system was implemented.

## Formaldehyde Exposure Control Policy

The committee performed the annual review of the [Formaldehyde Exposure Control Policy](#). In addition to the policy review, Brennan gave an overview of UNC's Formaldehyde Safety program including pertinent regulations, the number of formaldehyde users on campus, [Formaldehyde Safety](#) online training compliance percentages and yearly monitoring that has occurred for formaldehyde. Minor edits were made to the policy including updated website links and formatting into new University-wide policy template.

## Safety Culture Logos

Brennan presented the draft eleven safety culture logos to the committee that were designed by Facilities & Operations, Service Center of Excellence. The committee discussed each and picked 5 favorites and asked for a few minor changes related to color. Brennan will bring updated logos to next meeting where the committee will vote on one favorite that can be used in committee and lab safety communications across campus.

## Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from November through December, 2017.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee was preparing samples using taped off glass and when removing tape some liquid splashed into face, neck and chest.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was bitten while transferring a rat from cage to induction box for anesthesia.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee sustained a mouse bite through gloves while working in biosafety cabinet.
BLOOD EXPOSURE, OTHER	Employee was cutting human cartilage tissue when had with scalpel slipped and sliced left thumb through gloves.
FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee was mixing a solution in a capped tube and the lid popped off and splashed buffer solution in eye.

STRAIN	Employee developed repetitive motion injury from working in tissue culture/biosafety cabinet.
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For incidents, there was 1 fire alarm, 1 gas leak, 2 miscellaneous, 6 odor complaints, 1 request for investigation, 1 chemical spill and 1 water spill.

### Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from January through February, 2018.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION or INHALATION	Employee was injecting a mouse with Complete Freuds Adjuvant (CFA) when the mouse moved and employee sustained a needlestick and possible exposure. Employee later noticed irritation at site of injection.
ABSORPTION, INGESTION or INHALATION	Employee was using a syringe that contained mouse leukemia cells and when trying to force syringe plunger splashed contents onto side of face.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was restraining dog to give oral medicine when dog nipped two of employee's fingers.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was performing an injection on a mouse when it bit their finger.
BURN OR SCALD	Employee was preparing a prep for bacterial culture when a reagent bottle (L7) slipped from hands, hit table and splashed in face. Glasses protected eyes but chemical irritated exposed skin.
BURN OR SCALD	Employee removed glassware from oven and burned hands due to temperature being higher (200 °C) than expected (50 °C).
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was thawing a cryovial with right hand in a 37 °C water bath when the cryovial exploded causing minor cuts to right hand between ring and middle finger.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee cut finger while trying to remove tissue section from Cryostat.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee cut right hand index finger with razor blade while performing mouse surgery.
FALL, SLIP or TRIP	Employee was walking outside main entrance to building when they slipped on a thin layer of ice and fell, injuring their back.
STRUCK or INJURED BY	Employee was injecting potentially BSL2+ infected mouse with saline when needle slipped.
STRUCK or INJURED BY	Employee was collecting blood from mouse and using syringe with needle to transfer to EDTA vial. Employee removed needle from syringe and attempted to recap and stuck hand with needle.

For incidents, there were 10 fire alarms, 2 fume hood calls, 8 odor complaints and 1 chemical spill.

### Other Committee Business

No other committee business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.