



UNC-CH LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 18th, 2019 – MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Lisa Cremeans, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Liang, Jim Potts, Nick Tsihlis

Visitors Present: Nick Caligari

Members Absent: Lorraine Alexander, Rihe Liu, Todd O'Buckley, Kathryn Reissner, Sarah Scarry

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Nanotechnology Safety Program and Policy

Caligari presented the annual review of the [Nanotechnology Safety Program](#) and [Nanotechnology Safety Policy](#) to the committee. There was only one minor change to the policy and the committee voted in favor of approval. In addition to presenting review of policy, Caligari gave an overview of what the Nanotechnology Safety program consists of, including an [online training module](#), Nanomaterial Risk Level table and [Chapter 18: Safe Use of Nanomaterials](#) of Lab Safety Manual.

Safety Supervisor Training Materials

The committee discussed providing a website that outlines Laboratory Safety Supervisor responsibilities. The website will include a definition of what a Laboratory Safety Supervisor is, provide FAQs and informational links to useful safety web applications and also include a checklist for the PI to use to better define Laboratory Safety Supervisor responsibilities. In addition, planning began for a Laboratory Safety Supervisor town hall event in late January 2020. At the November LCSC meeting, a draft website and checklist will be discussed and finalized in preparation for upcoming town hall event.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May through August 2019.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee developed allergy while working with rats.
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Employee was doing triage assay utilizing radioactive materials and did not feel anything while at work but felt sick in the morning.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee grabbed mouse for IP injection and sustained bite.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was attempting to restrain mouse during routine training and was bitten on left forefinger.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee sustained mouse bite.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was bitten on finger when restraining a mouse for blood collection.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - OTHER	Employee was eviscerating pelvic and abdominal organs and nicked left index finger with scalpel.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - OTHER	Employee pricked finger with tweezers used to divide liver tissue samples when cleaning up workspace.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was potentially exposed to chemical fumes in laboratory.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was adding Trifluoroacetic Acid (TFA) to water using a syringe and a small amount sprayed onto face.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was plating media under hood and using flame sterilization technique when gloves caught on fire.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was opening a tube of Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) pellets when some liquified NaOH splashed into right eye.



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BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	A reflux condenser popped off reaction vessel and splashed employee with contents (Methanol, o-Vanillin, Potassium Carbonate, Dimethyl Sulfate)
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was pipetting organic solvent and it splashed up under safety glasses.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was emptying waste container attached to flow cytometry unit when a small amount of cleaning solution (10\$ Bleach) sprayed form line into eye.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was dispensing liquid nitrogen when valve became stuck and cold burned through gloves.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was demonstrating laboratory technique when a small amount of Trizol/Chloroform fell on arm.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was standing on bow of moving boat when driver accidentally hit throttle, causing employee to fall into basket of anchors.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was utilizing glass scorer when glass broke unexpectedly.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was working was cutting flesh frozen tumor sample and nicked palm with blade.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee sustained scratch when putting biohazard waste bag into autoclave.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was attempting to seal glass canister and applied too much force resulting in glass breaking.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was injecting a mouse using a needle and accidentally punctured finger.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was injecting Cefazolin into rat when rat moved and needle punctured employee's hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was injecting mouse when they accidentally poked themselves with needle.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was tying up a full bag of broken glass and cut right index finger and hand.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPER	Employee was removing cover off sterile needle and punctured left index finger on left hand.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee was standing on stool reaching items on high shelf and when stepping down landed incorrectly and fell.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee was bringing samples from 1 st floor to 4 th in building and slipped.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee was walking in hallway and slipped on puddle of water coming from cold room.
FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee splashed bleach into eye and mouth.
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION	Employee developed strain with same movement of neck while utilizing microtome.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY	Employee removed fully sealed tube from liquid nitrogen tank and it exploded.
STRUCK OR INJURED BY	Employee opened lab door and it hit finger in odd way causing injury.

For incidents, there were 1 fire, 15 fire alarms, 1 miscellaneous, 16 odor complaints, 1 chemical spill, 3 mercury spills and 2 water spills.

Other Committee Business

The committee welcomed new member Lisa Cremeans, Clinical Assistant Professor from the Department of Allied Health Sciences.



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Brennan informed the committee about the new Safety Culture [statement from interim Chancellor](#), mentioned severe weather laboratory safety preparation [resources](#) now that Atlantic Hurricane season has started and also reminded committee members that campus flu vaccination clinics have started and information can be found at <https://flu.unc.edu/>.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.