

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, January 21, 2004 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members present:** Kirby Zeman, Kim Burns, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Elizabeth Guthrie, James Gilbert, Ray Hackney, Jim Morken, Lorraine Alexander, Katherine Hamil, Richard Hanes, Nikki Duncan, Bruna Brylawski

**Members absent:** Mike Fisher, Liska Lackey, Diane Shugars,

**Also present:** Jonathan Moore of Environment Health and Safety

Minutes for the meeting on October 8, 2003 were approved.

**Lab Safety Inspection Program**

Jonathan Moore, who coordinates the EHS laboratory inspection program, presented annual laboratory inspection results. The most common violations were lack of annual training on the laboratory safety plan, improper handling of needles, and the lab safety plan not updated annually. There was discussion about the need to track repeat violations, and comparing our inspection results with other universities.

**Accidents and Incidents in Lab Buildings**

James Gilbert distributed documents that listed the incidents and injuries that occurred in lab building during the past quarter. The following injuries were reviewed:

Department	Injury
Pathology	Employee complained of numbness and pain in right hand and wrist resulting from pipetting sample to 96 well plate with electronic pipetter.
Pharmacology	Developed cough variant asthma triggered by possible allergy to rodents and/or organic solvents.
Pediatrics	Employee was making protein lysate from cultured tumor cell when needle used to disrupt the cells went into left index finger.
Biology	When putting glass pipette into pipet-aid, pipette broke and employee cut left pinky finger on glass.
Gene Therapy Center	Employee experienced redness and tearing in eyes after viewing and isolating bands from an agarose gel on UV box without eye or face protection for 15-30 min.
Medicine	Employee states he was microwaving agarose gel and upon removal from the microwave with his right hand the bottle exploded cutting his right wrist.
Cell & Dev Biology	Employee was replacing old, rusty blade in cryostat and cut middle finger, right hand with old blade. Cut was 0.5 inches long.
Chemistry	Employee was cut by piece of glass poking through bag while glass waste box was being prepared for removal.
Cystic Fibrosis/	After employee finished scraping ice from freezer she bent over to brush frost from lower shelf and observed pain in lower back, right side.
Thrombosis & Hemostasis	Employee was anesthetizing mouse with Avertin and stuck left hand (base of thumb) with needle.
Medicine	Employee was extracting DNA from mice livers with phenol which apparently dripped on front apron of hood. Arm rested on hood and contacted phenol causing 2nd degree burn between elbow and hand.
Dental Research	Employee was setting up microtome for work when right thumb struck and was cut (4 mm) by microtome razor blade.
Chemistry	Employee was checking temperature on reaction set up in hood when reaction vessel exploded and glass cut face.
Biology	While getting dry ice employee was exposed to CO2 vapor, experiencing burning eyes.

For incidents during October to December there were: 6 odor complaints in lab buildings; 2 natural gas leaks; 9 spills, 5 of which were mercury spills; 1 fire; and 1 other miscellaneous incident.

**Other Business**

There was a follow-up on the reported unsafe conditions in another institution's labs located on campus. A meeting was held with the principal investigator of this lab, and laboratory inspections were conducted of the area. University attorneys are investigating contract language related to safety issues at the institution.