

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, January 22, 2009 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Bruna Brylawski, Catherine Brennan, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, James Gilbert, Jeffery Johnson, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Howard Fried, Katherine Hamil, Liska Lackey, Susan McMahan, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

**Update of CLIP Changes for 2009**

Gilbert gave an update of recent changes to the Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP) for 2009. As part of a continuous improvement process for the CLIP program, citations and inspection grades were reviewed and revised. Revisions were based on future correlation of CLIP inspection data with risk (incidents and accidents). In the future, annual re-evaluation and data assessment of the CLIP program will lead to data-driven compliance and allow the inspection program to keep up with safety and regulatory changes. Committee members made suggestions regarding updating the EHS website to outline the revised CLIP assessment criteria and also to provide a list of citations to university researchers.

**Discussion of Mercury Free UNC Policy**

Members were sent a draft copy of the Mercury Free UNC Policy prior to the meeting. Committee members discussed the urgent need for a policy based on the amount of mercury spills reported each quarter. Gilbert made the point that UNC hospitals went mercury free more than ten years ago. Several members liked the idea of citations during CLIP inspections to lead to compliance. The time line for implementation was discussed and it was agreed to begin citations in January 2010. All members at the meeting were in favor of instituting the policy. Email responses from members who missed the meeting also supported implementation. The policy was previously presented at the USSC meeting and was approved pending LCSC approval. Based on LCSC and USSC approval the policy will be initiated and sent out campus wide in March 2009.

**Injuries and Incidents, October-December 2008**

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008.

INJURY
A lab technician picked up a flask of hot autoclaved yeast which proceeded to boil over. The employee received 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree burns on the right forearm. The employee was evaluated by UEOHC and referred to the burn clinic for further treatment.
An undergraduate laboratory assistant was helping turn a table on its side when it came down on their second toe on the left foot. X-rays taken at UEOHC were negative for fracture.
A lab technician was emptying blood from a syringe collected from a mouse and stuck their right thumb when recapping the needle. The employee went to UEOHC for wound care.
A research Assistant Professor was stuck by a scalpel blade while looking for a tool in a drawer. A co-worker helped remove the impaled blade and the employee received further treatment at UEOHC including a T-dap vaccination.
A research technician was cutting mouse brain with a scalpel on agar block. While scarping excess brain tissue, the scalpel slipped and the employee received a superficial laceration to the right index finger. The wound was cleaned and bandaged at UEOHC and the employee was counseled on wound care.
An Assistant Professor was using a scalpel while flattening cardboard boxes. The scalpel slipped and the employee's left thumb received a laceration. The employee went to UEOHC the next day and was referred to ED.
A technician received a minor dog bite to the left hand when attempting to break up a dog fight. The employee went to UEOHC where the wound was cleaned and bandaged.
A research scientist was cleaning a lab and cut their left thumb at nail bed with a dirty razor blade. The employee was treated at UEOHC where they were counseled for wound care and received a T-dap vaccination.

A research technician stuck a finger on their left hand when uncapping a sterile needle in a Bio-safety cabinet that contained dead animals and organs infected with a Biosafety Level II+ agent. The employee received treatment at UEHC and was counseled on wound care and received a T-dap booster.
A lab employee working with a Bio-safety Level II+ agent pulled a syringe plunger too quickly, the syringe slipped and the attached needle stuck into the employee's thumb on the left hand. The employee was treated at UEHC and prescribed deoxycycline.
A post-doctoral researcher received a needle stick to the left middle finger from a syringe containing a 4% formaldehyde solution. The lab works with a Bio-safety Level III agent but the syringe never contained the biological agent.
A post-doctoral fellow complained of wrist and thumb pain from typing. The pain is possibly due to typing on a surface that is too high.
A technician received a splash to the eye when pouring a bleach solution down the drain. The incident was reported two months after the occurrence and it was discovered that eye protection was not worn.
A faculty member working with undergraduate students in a teaching lab was pipetting dichloromethane and some leaked onto the back of gloved left hand. The solvent permeated glove and the employee immediately removed the glove and washed their hand but did not report injury. The employee went to their family physician after irritation persisted for two weeks and then completed an accident report form.
A research associate was removing a mouse from a cage and the mouse bit the employee's thumb on their right hand.
A research associate was cleaning up a spilled buffer solution with paper towels. When employee reached behind part of counter that he couldn't see they punctured their right ring finger with a needle.
A research specialist was assembling new lab chairs and sprained their left wrist. The employee was sent to the Orthopedic clinic by UEHC where it was determined that a fracture did not occur.

For incidents, there were 10 chemical spills, 9 mercury spills, 8 lab hood alarms/repairs, 5 odor complaints, 3 fire alarms, 2 miscellaneous, 1 natural gas leak and 1 request for investigation.

#### Questions and Comments

Brennan updated committee that the Minors in Laboratories policy is currently being reviewed by Legal. A status update on the policy will be given at the next LCSC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.