

# MINUTES

## LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Michael Long, Kirby Zeman

**Members Absent:** Bruna Brylawski, Dan Elliott, Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard

**Others Present:** John Covely (Public Communications Specialist, EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

### PPE Survey Results

Covely presented results of PPE Survey that was sent to all registered lab workers (approximately 4500 people) in October 2012. The survey was completed by 680 researchers which is a 15% response rate. In addition, nearly 400 lab researchers provided comments to some of the open ended questions. The committee discussed how to use the results and focus efforts on education regarding safety and PPE. Summary of survey responses is listed below:

- 85% indicated that they always wear closed toe shoes
- 28% indicated that they always wear safety glasses or goggles
- 77% indicated that they always wear gloves
- 34% indicated that they always wear a lab coat
  
- 73% indicated that lab safety is very important to them
- 54% indicated that lab safety is very important to others in their lab
- 73% indicated that lab safety is very important to their PI
- 78% indicated that lab safety is very important to the University
  
- 59% indicated that wearing PPE is very important while conducting their research
- 45% are not familiar with the story about the 2008 UCLA lab accident
- 54% are not familiar with the *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (BMBL) book

Covely also discussed the PPE Campaign and the recent video interview of Associate Professor Mark Heise (School of Medicine) that is posted on YouTube and also was the subject of an article in the Gazette. This is the first of four videos and EHS would like LCSC members to participate in one of the others. An email will be sent out requesting volunteers from committee for March shoot date.

### EHS Non-compliance Process for Lab Environment

Brennan led a discussion on revised EHS non-compliance process for general lab and chemical safety issues. The Radiation Safety Committee's "Workplace Safety Assurance" policy was passed out for comparison. A flow chart was presented that summarizes a proposed process for EHS non-compliance that involves the LCSC. The committee will review lab non-compliance at meetings after the EHS Director has emailed the Principal Investigator and copied Department Head and/or Dean and not received a response. If items come to the committee for review the LCSC will vote on action and timeline. If no response is received after proposed time frame it will be sent to the University Safety and Security Committee (USSC) for final review and action.

### Injuries and Incidents, November-December 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from November through December, 2012.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Animal bite	Employee was injecting mice and mouse bite middle finger of left hand.
Blood Exposure: Needlestick	Employee placed a used needle into Sharps container and needle got stuck on safety device and poked employees left thumb.
Blood Exposure: Needlestick	Employee was injecting mice with a BSL2 agent and needle nicked left thumb.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Object	Employee was handling a mouse tibia bone and it poked through glove and pierced thumb.

Being Lifted or Handled	
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Broken Glass	Employee moved a cart and accidentally knocked over biohazard bin. While sweeping up contents, employee pricked gloved hand with glass from broken tube.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Object Being Lifted or Handled	Employee was filling up box with tips from pipetting and also trying to remove a piece of autoclave tape. Employee grabbed a razor blade to aid in removing tape and it slipped and sliced left hand.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape: Hand Tool, Utensil	While employee was removing glass pipette from vacuum hose the pipette broke and cut hand and left small amount of glass in hand.
Misc – Other Misc, NOC	Possible needle-stick.
Struck or Injured by: Animal or Insect	Employee was socializing rats and a rat crawled up left forearm and scratched skin through PPE.
Struck or Injured by: Object Being Lifted or Handled	A cutting membrane paper roll slipped from shelf and employee tried to catch it with scissors in hand. Scissors slipped and cut left thumb.

For incidents, there was 1 electrical hazard, 1 fire, 1 fire alarm, 2 fume hoods, 1 gas leak, 2 miscellaneous, 3 odor complaints and 1 chemical spill.

**Other Committee Business**

No further committee business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.