

MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
 Wednesday, April 25, 2007 (2101-G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Jeff Johnson, Kirby Zeman, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Rihe Liu, Bonnie Taylor-Blake, Katherine Hamil, Pat Boone (for Carolyn Bishop), James Gilbert, Brent Webber

Members Absent: Bruna Brylawski, Howard Fried, Susan McMahan, Liska Lackey, Ray Hackney

Others Present: Jonathan Moore, Donii Fox, and Deb Howard (EHS)

Meeting commenced at 3:00pm. Minutes from the meeting of January 24, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Annual Update – CLIP Inspections

Moore provided a summary of results from the EHS Collaborative Laboratory Inspection Program (CLIP) from 2006. Most key indicators showed similar trends to previous years. The percent serious lab safety violations increased slightly to 12.6% (from 11.4% in 2004 and 2005). The list of top variances (by citation frequency) was similar to previous years, though not completing annual bloodborne pathogen training moved up from #8 in 2005 to #3 in 2006. Moore stated that the increase in BSL-2 labs on campus, and required cross-training for CLIP staff, has increased the frequency of this citation. Approximately 1/3 of citations come from newly-started labs.

Safer Sharps and Needle Devices

Fox addressed the Committee, and asked whether the Committee should be tasked with “approving” specific safer sharps and needle devices that could be used on campus. The Committee discussed each member’s (and their department’s) particular use of needles and sharps, and determined that the Committee would be an appropriate body for this approval. Committee members represent departments with most imaginable uses of sharps and needles on campus, and thus there would likely be at least one person familiar with the intended use of a new device, and the device it meant to replace.

Injuries and Incidents, January-March 2007

The Committee reviewed and discussed the log of injuries and incidents for the 1st Quarter 2007.

INJURY TYPE	DESCRIPTION
STRAIN: REPETITIVE MOTION	Shoulder injury from pipetting in hood, and working on computer.
FALL, SLIP OR TRIP: FALL, SLIP OR TRIP	Employee was exiting laboratory and bumped into liquid nitrogen tank in front of door in lab. Employee fell and hit left knee and left side of face. Prescribed ibuprofen. X-rays of left hand were negative. Follow-up indicated no lingering health effects.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: HAND TOOL, UTENSIL	Employee was using knife to decapitate animal carcasses. Knife slipped and lacerated right index finger. Employee went to ED the next day and wound was cleaned and closed with adhesive.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE: CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee cut finger on microtome blade while cleaning it after cutting tissue sections. UEOHC cleaned wound and applied dermabond.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD: CHEMICALS	Quenching hydrofluoric acid in syringe with saturated sodium bicarbonate when splashback occurred. Applied calcium gluconate gel. Went to Campus Health because incident occurred at 5:30pm.
MISC: ABSORPTION, INGESTION, OR INHALATION	Employee has continued allergic reaction to rats and may have developed allergic reaction to respirator as well.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – SCALPEL, OTHER EQUIPMENT, ETC.	While manipulating infected tick guts (Lyme disease) with forceps, employee pricked finger with the end of the forceps.
MISC: BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK	Employee was perfusing <i>Francisella Tularensis</i> LVS (Type A non-virulent) infected mice. After perfusion, employee stuck right index finger with 26g needle used for perfusion. Prescribed doxycycline for two weeks.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee put glass pipet on tubing from gas cylinder to dry DNA samples. When gas was turned on, the pressure shattered the pipet. Employee went to UEOHC with concerns of glass in eye. No foreign

	objects detected. Employee was not wearing eye protection.
MISC: FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee was pouring solution of 50% methanol-10% acetic acid-405 water and splash went into left eye. Eye protection was not worn. Eye flushed for 5 minutes. After continued irritation, employee went to UEOHC and eye was flushed for 15 minutes and give eye drops.

For incidents, there were 15 spills (12 of them mercury), nine odor calls, and three natural gas leaks.

Committee Concerns

Burns asked about a Teaching Assistant safety curriculum, in order to improve safe practices in teaching laboratories, and due to a perception that it's hard to "reach" teaching labs with lab safety information. The Chemistry Department was presented as an example of a department which assembles TAs prior to teaching lab instruction to ensure that critical lab safety elements are known and practiced. EHS will make an effort to work with other lab-intensive departments for a similar set-up.

Webber asked whether the Committee felt a policy for "ear bud" usage in the labs was necessary, due to concerns related to MP3 and bud contamination, communication problems, or inattention to tasks. The Committee did not feel that a blanket policy was warranted at this time.

Meeting adjourned 4:00pm.