

# MINUTES

## LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Howard Fried, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, James Gilbert, Jeffery Johnson, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

**Others Present:** Deborah Howard

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Katherine Hamil, Susan McMahan

Meeting commenced at 3:01 pm.

### Hood and Laboratory Ventilation Policy

The updated policy was distributed prior to the meeting for review by committee members. Howard presented the policy and outlined changes including:

- Addition of Biological Safety Cabinets (BSC), clean benches and snorkels
- Inclusion of *Flammable Gases Policy*
- New section on requirements for removal of hoods
- Addition of capital projects versus renovation and review process
- Addition of requirements for BSC regarding annual certification

Gilbert requested that some minor clarifications be made in regards to ducted versus non-ducted BSCs. Brylawski asked about restrictions for BSCs and radioactive materials and as a result of the discussion a radiation section will be added to the policy. The committee approved the policy with these minor changes.

### Surplus Property

Brennan notified the committee about the new fine structure for delivery of contaminated equipment at the Surplus Property Warehouse. The *Prohibitions for Surplus Property* list available on the EHS website was distributed to committee members and discussion focused on who pays for these fines. A suggestion was made that if it has not already been done the Surplus Property fine structure should be distributed to all departmental business managers. Brennan emphasized that the new fines were a Purchasing Department policy not an EHS policy.

### Injuries and Incidents, January-March 2010

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010.

INJURY
Research technician was performing a tail pinch test on mouse's tail as pain test. When clip was removed mouse bit ring finger on right hand. Employee was seen at UEOHC but refused antibiotics. Wound was irrigated and bandaged.
Graduate student taking part in mouse handling technique class. Mouse bit left index finger. Wound was cleaned, antibiotic ointment applied, and band-aid applied. Employee received tetanus booster.
Employee taking part in mouse handling technique class. Mouse bit right index finger. Wound was cleaned, antibiotic ointment applied, and band-aid applied.
Employee taking part in mouse handling technique class. Mouse bit right thumb. Wound was cleaned, antibiotic ointment applied, and band-aid applied.
Employee taking part in mouse handling technique class. Mouse bit right index finger. Wound was cleaned, antibiotic ointment applied, and band-aid applied. Employee received tetanus booster.
Employee was placing a used needle into sharps container. Protruding needle from opening punctured left index finger.
Employee was embedding tissues in molds. While placing cassettes into wax bath, one popped open and pin stuck right index finger.
Research technician cut left index finger with razor blade while cutting human biopsy.
Graduate student was using needle to weigh out reagent (3-aminopropyl trimethoxysilane). While attempting to put cap back on reagent bottle, needle cut left thumb. Wound was flushed with water. Employee went to Campus Health Services for follow-up.
Post-doc picked up bottle of ethidium bromide by the cap. Broken or loose cap allowed bottle to fall splashing contents on employee's left leg and foot. Less than 1 mL of stock solution spilled. Employee went home, took shower, and changed clothes. Seen at UEOHC on same day and cleared to return to work.
Graduate student used a laminated card to align Class 4 laser. Beam reflected into left eye. Incident

occurred on a Friday, no effects noticed initially and did not report to UEOHC until Monday when vision was affected. Went to UNC eye clinic and diagnosed with macular scar and reddened fovea.
Graduate student was attempting to free a frozen condenser from a flask (ground glass joint). The flask shattered and the employee's right palm was lacerated. Employee received 4 stitches at emergency room.
Lab assistant was rolling a cart and placed hand on unseen piece of glass. Left small finger punctured.
Post-doc was disposing of broken glass box. Small piece of glass on exterior of box punctured left thumb.
Employee cut right index finger on metal cabinet while cleaning it. Employee went to UEOHC and counseled on wound care and signs of infection.
Employee was placing glass staining jar on drying rack after washing when jar block and cut employee on knuckle of right index finger and right wrist. Employee went to UEOHC and was referred to emergency room and received 1 suture.
Post-doc punctured left thumb with copper wire that was being used to connect electrodes. Wound cleaned, antibiotic ointment and band-aid applied. Employee counseled to watch for signs of infection.
Post-doc was cutting glass and a small piece of glass punctured right little finger. Wound cleaned, antibiotic and band-aid applied.
Research technician was putting biohazardous waste bag in autoclave. Something in bag punctured left middle finger. No infectious work in lab. Wound cleaned, antibiotic and band-aid applied. Tetanus booster given.
Patient called clinic after scratching index finger with needle after drawing blood from mouse. Wound cleaned with soap and water. Employee did not want to seek further treatment.
Post-doc was exiting lab into hallway that was being cleaned and he slipped and fell. Apparently there was no signage at that entrance to the hallway. Employee followed-up with UEOHC and was prescribed medication.
Employee was standing on bench to clean shelves while vacating lab space. Employee mis-stepped when coming down and fell landing on right arm. UEOHC referred employee to orthopedic clinic. X-rays of right elbow were negative for fracture.
Research associate euthanizing large number of mice because animal colonies were moving to new building, but these mice could not be moved. Employee complained of breathing problems possibly due to allergic reaction or exposure to carbon dioxide. Employee counseled to go to emergency room if difficulty breathing returned.
Graduate student working with BSL-3 agent was cleaning BSL-3 biological safety cabinet after perfusing mice when contaminated waste splashed out of cabinet and onto apron. Employee was seen at UEOHC and biological safety protocol was followed.
Employee working with BSL-2 agent was transferring surface decontaminated replicon tray containing biohazard waste from biological safety cabinet to autoclave when tray slipped out of hands and fell onto the floor spilling contents. Employee was seen at UEOHC and counseled to notify clinic if symptoms appeared.
Employee seen at UEOHC after complaining of allergic reaction after working in lab and mouse room.
Employee tripped and spilled trays containing BSL-2 agent when removing from BSL-2 biological safety cabinet. Another employee was in lab. Spill was cleaned up after 30-minute waiting period. Both employees had blood drawn at UEOHC. Counseled to notify clinic if symptoms appeared.
Research instructor was helping to move a centrifuge when it slipped and employee injured his back. Returned to work on 03/29.
Employee was taking a sample from a nitrogen tank when cover of tank fell and hit employee's head. Went to UEOHC and right frontal abrasion with swelling noted. Returned to Clinic on next day to receive tetanus booster.

For incidents, there were 8 chemical spills, 8 laboratory hoods, 8 miscellaneous, 7 odors, 3 mercury spills, 3 natural gas leaks, 2 requests for investigations, and 1 environment water quality.

### Other Committee Business

Brennan mentioned that a broadcast email had been sent to the Principal Investigators and Safety Supervisors reminding them about the *Minors in Laboratories Policy* prior to the start of the summer research season. Brennan distributed the new *Nanomaterial Risk Level* table that is accessible on the EHS website and helps researchers determine safety risks and measures related to types of nanomaterials. An announcement was made that Jeff Johnson will be leaving the committee and a colleague in the Department of Chemistry, Erik Alexanian, will be taking his place.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.