

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2014 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Michael Long, Kathryn Reissner, Courtney Roberts,

Members Absent: Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Minors in Labs Policy

The committee performed the annual review of the [High School Students and Minors in Laboratories](#) policy. Brennan proposed changes related to inclusion of the new Human Resources [Policy on Unpaid Volunteers, Interns and Visiting Scholars](#). Since HR requires a release form as part of their policy the release form included in the EHS Minors in Labs Policy is no longer required. The committee approved the changes and the policy will be presented at an upcoming University Safety and Security Committee meeting for final approval.

Safety Refresher Training

Brennan presented a demo of the UCLA safety refresher training that is more interactive in nature with small quizzes throughout the training. An outside vendor completed the training module for UCLA and they have also contacted UNC to see if we would be interested in contracting with them to develop a similar module specific to UNC laboratories. The committee was impressed with the training and thought EHS should pursue obtaining more information on cost. Brennan will update committee once further information is obtained.

Marsico Hall

Long gave an overview of the new imaging research building ([Marsico Hall](#)) that has recently opened on campus. The building has a heavy laboratory research emphasis with an open lab design and contains approximately 150 chemical fume hoods. Principal investigators from the School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy are continuing to move into the new lab spaces and EHS has been aiding with chemical moves, radiation safety, establishing new lab safety plans and fume hood/biological safety cabinet certifications.

Injuries and Incidents, March-April 2014

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from March through April, 2014.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee came to work after building had flooded. Fans had been set up to help dry lab and hallways and employee experienced allergies and coughing.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was working with acrylonitrile and acrylic acid while wearing nitrile gloves. Right and left hands became sensitized to substance.
Blood Exposure	Employee was injecting human tumor cells using syringe and accidentally stuck right thumb.
Burn or Scald: Chemical	Employee was washing a capillary with 0.1N Hydrochloric acid using a syringe. Too much pressure was applied and the acidic solution came out the end and splashed into left eye.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was using forceps and the cap came off and cut finger.
Cut, Puncture Scrape	An employee was cleaning up a chemical spill and cut finger while picking up broken glass.
Strain	An employee developed a repetitive stress injury to left arm and shoulder after pipetting.
Strain	An employee was moving lab equipment and felt shoulder "pop" and developed pain in right arm and numbness in right hand.
Struck or Injured By	A container under vacuum exploded and glass injured right hand.

For incidents, there was 1 fire, 1 fire alarm, 2 fume hood malfunctions, 10 odor complaints, and 1 water spill.

Other Committee Business

Brennan presented the new PI safety meeting verification page located within the lab safety plan to the committee to solicit feedback. Several suggestions were made and the verification page will be presented at the next meeting for final approval.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.