

# MINUTES

## LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 16, 2014 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

**Members Present:** Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Michael Long, Kathryn Reissner, Courtney Roberts

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Bruna Brylawski, Karen Hogan, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

### 2013 EHS Annual Report

Brennan briefly went over the [2013 EHS Annual Report](#) which committee members had previously received in the mail. In addition, UNC-CH EHS is currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year and committee members were presented with a coffee mug that commemorates the anniversary and to thank them for their service to the committee.

### Dangerous Gas Policy Review

The committee performed the annual review of the [Dangerous Gas Policy](#). Brennan presented one minor change that added language related to disposal of cylinders: *"All empty dangerous gas cylinders should be labeled as "Empty" and be returned to vendor for disposal. If a vendor will not accept a cylinder or an older or compromised cylinder is found, contact EHS (919-962-5507) immediately for an assessment and to arrange disposal."* The committee voted and passed the change.

### PI Safety Training Verification

Brennan demoed the proposed Principal Investigator verification screen within the lab safety plan to solicit feedback from the committee. Members requested that there be an optional document upload function to the page where Principal Investigator's would be able to upload sign-in sheets, presentations or other materials related to the required annual safety meeting. Brennan will send out an email in the Fall to Principal Investigators detailing the new requirement and Principal Investigators will have a year to implement before noncompliance citations begin.

### Injuries and Incidents, May-June 2014

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May through June, 2014.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Blood Exposure, Needlestick	An employee reached for an uncapped used needle and stuck finger.
Blood Exposure, Needlestick	Employee stuck finger with needle while performing mouse surgery in BSL2 work area.
Blood Exposure, Needlestick	Employee stuck finger with needle in BSL3 work area.
Blood Exposure, Other	Employee was autoclaving biohazardous waste and noticed a cut on finger upon removing gloves.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold	Employee was adding triflic acid <i>via</i> syringe to a reaction flask. The syringe failed during addition and the employee was sprayed with strong acid on neck/chin and received skin burns.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold	Employee was moving a glass chemical waste bottle containing benzyl alcohol and benzyl benzoate (1:1). The bottle slipped and broke on floor and there was minor chemical exposure to foot of employee.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee cut themselves on razor blade during animal surgery.
Foreign Matter in Eye	Employee dropped a mechanical pipet and a piece broke off, bounced up and struck the employee in eye.
Miscellaneous	Employee showed conversion during annual TB screen and the assumption is taken that this could have occurred during lab work.

For incidents, there was 1 biohazard, 2 fire alarms, 18 fume hood malfunctions, 1 miscellaneous, 3 odor complaints, 5 chemical spills and 1 mercury spill.

**Other Committee Business**

Koza mentioned the recent release of the National Research Council report, [Safe Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research](#), in which former UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp served as chair. Koza also described a new Laboratory Safety Institute (LSI) award that UNC is interested in participating in. As part of the yearly national award, UNC-CH might implement a monthly safety award. More details will follow once the national LSI award qualifications have been reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.