

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Jacob Forstater, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Anthony Hackney, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu, Michael Long

Members Absent: Erik Alexanian, Pat Boone, Bruna Brylawski, Dan Elliott, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

Dangerous Gas Policy

Brennan requested review of the proposed new policy prior to the meeting. Purpose of the policy is to establish minimum standards for lab researchers that utilize dangerous gases on campus. Dangerous gases include any gases that may cause significant acute health effects at low concentration (toxic, highly toxic and pyrophoric gases). Committee members made four suggestions for additions to policy: records of gas system sensor replacement and calibration of equipment should be accessible to inspectors as part of lab safety documentation; adjacent labs should be notified of dangerous gas use and risks; local alarm should be both audible and visual; EHS should be responsible for verifying inventory amounts via the Chemical Inventory system. The policy was approved by the LCSC and will be presented at the next USSC meeting in September for final approval.

UC Laboratory Safety Survey

The University California Center for Laboratory Safety in collaboration with BioRAFT and Nature Publishing Group held a national lab safety survey to understand attitudes and practices of the laboratory research community regarding laboratory safety. The survey was sent to thousands of researchers across the country and ended July 31st. Results will be published in a Nature journal and will be discussed at the LCSC when the results are released.

Injuries and Incidents, May-June 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from May through June, 2012.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was forcing a solution containing a BLS2 agent through a filter, the filter became clogged and the solution sprayed onto employee's neck, chin and hands.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was mixing solutions and received possible exposure to diisopropylfluorophosphate (DFP).
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was filling a cartridge with acrylamide sequencing gel, the gasket on the cartridge popped and unpolymerized gel splashed on neck and face.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was working in a tissue culture hood when a homogenizer was turned on. One of the caps on a tube fell open and the contents sprayed into area. Potential exposure to BSL2 agent.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was performing stereotaxic surgery on rats when animal allergy symptoms occurred.
Animal Bite	Employee was performing an experiment with rats and received bite on hand.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten on right finger by a rat during feeding.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by mouse on finger while trying to install ear tag.
Animal Bite	Employee was attending an animal handling class and was bitten on the pinky finger by a rat.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by rat while preparing for an experiment.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was trimming an impression obtained from a study model with a #15 blade, employees hand slipped and left index finger was cut.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee cut left palm while opening a can.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was injecting drug into animal using syringe and stuck left hand.
Cut, Puncture,	Employee cut left index finger while opening package with scissors.

Scrape	
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee dropped a glass bottle of sterile liquid, reached down and received a small cut from broken glass.
Fall, Slip or Trip	Employee fell off stool during an experiment.
Blood Exposure, other equipment	Employee pricked finger with a scalpel while transferring human tissue samples to a container.

For incidents, there was 1 electrical hazard, 6 fire alarms, 2 fume hood malfunctions, 8 odor complaints, 5 chemical spills and 2 mercury spills.

Other Committee Business

Koza discussed issues with unpaid visiting scholars and ensuring that they are registered as lab workers. In addition, supervisors and unpaid visiting scholars must realize that they are not covered under workers compensation and should have their own health insurance. EHS will be coordinating with HR to identify lab workers who are Visiting Scholars.

Koza mentioned that she will be sending annual CLIP results to each department chair and will share these with the LCSC.

Forstater asked whether preparation for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) had started. GHS was recently adopted by OSHA and EHS is working on a timeline for training and other requirements and will present at a future LCSC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.