MINUTES
LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 17, 2014 (3005 Michael Hooker Research Center)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Bruna Brylawski, Nita Eskew, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long, Kathryn Reissner

Members Absent: Kimberlie Burns, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Courtney Roberts, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Laboratory Ventilation Policy
The committee performed the annual review of the Laboratory Ventilation Policy. Long presented changes to the policy, which included specifics regarding testing of horizontal versus combination sashes and the addition of Addendum 1. The new addendum defines specific pass/fail criteria based on *ASHRAE 110-1995: Method of Testing Performance of Laboratory Hoods* and National Institutes of Health (NIH) local exhaust testing protocols. The committee voted to approve the changes and the policy will be submitted to the University Safety & Security Committee (USSC) for final review and approval.

Biosafety Stewardship Month
As a result of recent lapses in biosafety practices at federal laboratories, the federal government has issued a "Safety Stand-Down". This will provide federal facilities time to review safety protocols, and thereby assure the wellbeing of laboratory researchers and the American public. Institutions, such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, that receive U.S. government funding are encouraged to conduct similar reviews. As part of this effort, the NIH and other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services declared September as National Biosafety Stewardship Month. Koza discussed how UNC-CH was supporting this effort by conducting a freezer survey of all laboratory principal investigators in order to inventory locations of all infectious agents, recombinant DNA and select agent toxins on campus.

Safe Science Report
Koza passed out excerpts from the National Research Council's *Safe Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research* report. The report identified five stakeholder groups at universities and recommended actions they should take to support a strong safety culture across campus research labs. Koza highlighted the action summary sheets for Laboratory Researchers, Principal Investigators and Department Chairs, and Deans and Vice Presidents for Research. EHS will be sending out an Avert newsletter in the future that covers this report as well as the importance of lab mentoring.

Injuries and Incidents, July-August 2014
The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from July through August, 2014.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	An employee working in a high containment lab had a potential exposure as a result of a PPE breach.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	An employee started smelling natural gas for approximately 10 minutes and began to feel nauseous and experience respiratory irritation.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	While working at a lab computer an employee smelled gas, the room got hazy, and they experienced respiratory irritation.
Animal Bite	An employee was bitten by a rat on their index finger during a rodent handling training class.
Animal Bite	An employee was bitten on the right thumb by a mouse infected with a BSL2 agent.
Blood Exposure, other	An employee was extracting DNA from whole human blood and dropped a tube containing blood, 100% ethanol and cell lysis solution. The tube hit the bench-top and the contents splashed, landing on the employee's eyelid and lips.
Burn or Scald, Heat or Cold: Chemicals	An employee was emptying a xylene container and spilled onto chest. A lab coat was worn but xylene went through lab coat and sweater onto skin.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was cutting a human tumor tissue with a razor blade and accidently cut their finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was preparing a scalpel for animal surgery. The blade slipped when attending to scalpel handle and made a deep cut pinkie finger on right hand.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	An employee was disposing of a syringe which had been used to dispense

	cyanogen bromide into a reaction and stuck themselves on thumb on left hand.
Fall, Slip or Trip	An employee was walking out of a stairwell that had no signage indicating that the floors were being waxed and stripped. Employee went through the already opened doors leading from the stairwell to hallway, walked a few feet then slipped in the wax/stripping solution.
Foreign Matter in Eye	An employee was cleaning/decontaminating lab apparatus when the liquid used splashed into right eye.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	An employee was working on a computer and lab pipetting and developed pain in right wrist.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	An employee developed pain in right hand after a day of mostly sitting and typing at work.
Striking Against or Stepping On	An employee was stocking a high shelf with gallon jugs, when the shelf detached from the wall and fell. Employee partially caught the shelf and strained lower and middle back.

For incidents, there were 2 fires, 2 fire alarms, 1 fume hood malfunctions, 2 natural gas leaks, 1 miscellaneous, 12 odor complaints, 2 chemical spills and 2 mercury spills.

Other Committee Business

The committee was made aware that the annual NCDENR and EPA inspection of the University's hazardous waste permit was underway on the day of the committee meeting. Koza discussed the new UNC Rave Guardian Campus Safety App for emergencies on campus. The free app was launched by the Department of Public Safety and could be used by researchers who work alone or after hours in laboratories *via* the safety timer function. More information will be sent out in the LCSC monthly minutes email to alert researchers to the new application and its functions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.