

MINUTES

LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 26, 2012 (2101G McGavran-Greenberg)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Erik Alexanian, Pat Boone, Bruna Brylawski, Kimberlie Burns, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Karen Hogan, Mary Beth Koza, Michael Long, Kirby Zeman

Members Absent: Dan Elliott, Jacob Forstater, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu

Others Present: John Covely, Deborah Howard

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

Dual-Use Research of Concern Training

Howard presented an overview of the new training required for labs that do BSL2, BSL2 or BSL3 research. The training is required every three years for all researchers who work with biological agents. The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) is involved in recognizing dual-use concerns and then writing mitigation plans. Dual-use does not necessarily have to be associated with recombinant DNA and the Principal Investigator is responsible for identifying potential dual-use research. Brylawski gave a suggestion on changing a misleading question in the training. Zeman asked where the title "dual-use" originated from and whether it should be subtitled to make it clear what the training entails. Burns asked whether non-biological agents are covered by dual-use. Currently, OBA/NIH oversees the dual-use regulations and they only cover biological research.

Lab PPE Campaign

Covely gave an overview of a new yearlong campaign to emphasize personal protective equipment (PPE) in the lab environment. The campaign will include short testimonials from UNC lab researchers with videos and print materials. Articles will also be released in the Gazette and an anonymous survey will be sent out to all lab researchers to establish a baseline for use and attitudes regarding PPE. The survey will also be soliciting safety stories that could be used as part of the campaign. Alexander asked about the survey format and how it will be used to assess trends. Burns suggested that one of the testimonials should have a PI talking to their peers about the importance of PPE. Hogan commented that some labs are not designed properly for wearing PPE. For example the lab bench and office desk are too close together and there is nowhere to hang lab coats. Koza emphasized that building design flow is important but PPE is also personal responsibility and an overall safety culture needs to be encouraged.

Injuries and Incidents, July-August 2012

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from July through August, 2012.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was heating teflon-like fluorinated polymer to high temperatures in an oven inside a chemical fume hood and felt unwell possibly due to polymer flu fever.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee experienced dizziness for several days within 14 days of working with a Biological Safety Level 3 agent.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Employee was cover slipping slides and started to get headache and dizzy due to smell of xylenes.
Animal Bite	Employee was collecting traps in creek with dive booties on and stepped on sting ray which stung top of foot.
Animal Bite	Employee was bit by rat during behavioral experiment.
Animal Bite	Employee was bitten by a mouse while taking it out of its cage.
Burn or Scald	Employee was working on a reaction in a chemical fume hood when an oil bath caught on fire, cracked and the oil splashed causing burns to face and hands.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee sat down and caught leg on exposed point of trowel while doing field work.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was doing field work in Tennessee, clearing brush with a machete, and cut left tibia.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was working on high pressure liquid chromatography flushing procedure and attempted to tighten a fitting with a wrench. The fitting cap came loose and due to system

	back-pressure the cap shot off and cut employees finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was using a microtome to make histological sections of tissue and hit finger with microtome blade.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was trying to disconnect glass tubes that were stuck together and while attempting to disconnect the glass tube broke and cut finger.
Strain	Employee was lifting 10.5 lb water bottle used in water filtration study from waist high utility cart and developed pain.
Strain	Employee was defrosting -20°C refrigerator and pulled a long rack out of the refrigerator. The rack was over employees head and the employee twisted back because of angle and heaviness of rack.
Strain	Employee hurt right wrist while doing heavy lifting during lab relocation.
Striking Against or Stepping On	Employee was walking backwards on a sand flat while doing laser scanning and stepped on oyster shell which cut the side of foot.

For incidents, there was 1 fire, 3 fire alarms, 5 odor complaints, 2 miscellaneous and 4 chemical spills.

Other Committee Business

New member Nita Eskew, Director of Undergraduate Chemistry Labs was introduced and welcomed by the committee. She will be replacing Erik Alexanian as committee member from the Department of Chemistry.

Brennan updated committee that the Dangerous Gas Policy was approved by the USSC at the August meeting. Koza requested that the UCLA incident gap analysis presented at the USSC be presented to LCSC at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.