

**MINUTES**  
**LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (3102-G McGavran-Greenberg)

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Catherine Brennan, Kimberlie Burns, James Gilbert, Holly Hong, Jeffery Johnson, Mary Beth Koza

**Members Absent:** Pat Boone, Bruna Brylawski, Howard Fried, Rita Fuchs-Lokensgard, Katherine Hamil, Rihe Liu, Susan McMahan, Kirby Zeman

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

**Regulatory Agency Inspection Updates**

Brennan gave an update of two recent inspections that have occurred on campus from state regulatory agencies:

- The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) Division of Waste Management visited campus twice this year to inspect the university's hazardous waste program.
- The Radiation Protection Section of NCDENR also recently performed an inspection of UNC's academic broad-scope radioactive materials license.

In addition to these state regulatory agencies, two federal inspections have occurred:

- Penny Padgett (Associate Biological Safety Officer) gave an overview of the recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT) Facilities Inspection.
- Mary Beth Koza gave a summary of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) inspection related to the shipping of hazardous materials.

**Injuries and Incidents, July-September 2009**

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2009.

INJURY
A post-doctoral fellow complained of nasal congestion, watery, itchy eyes after observing and performing animal surgeries and handling animals. The employee was evaluated at UEOHC and referred to primary care provider where they were prescribed allergy medications.
A research specialist with a history of allergy symptoms while working with rats felt throat closing and chest burning after 1.75 hours performing tail vein injections in rats. The employee was evaluated at UEOHC and referred to primary care provide for medical complaints.
A graduate student was seen at UEOHC because of an allergic-type reaction after working with rats in imaging studies.
A research scientist was bitten on the left index finger by a mouse during handling prior to anesthetizing.
A lab technician was retrieving a mouse from a cage when it bit a finger.
A post-doctoral fellow was taking a rat out of a cage to euthanize when the rat bit the middle finger of the left hand. The employee received TDAP vaccine.
A graduate student was adding bromine drop-wise to a reaction flask. The pressure increase was greater than the reaction set-up could handle and the septum on the reaction flask came off. The student was sprayed on the right arm with bromine from the syringe.
A post-doctoral researcher was disposing of a glass pipette used to aspirate media. The employee's palm was lacerated by a broken pipette sticking out of the waste container where disposed. The lab works with a Biosafety Level 2 agent and the protocol requires a different disposal method for these materials. The wound was treated with Bacitracin and the patient was given tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and Hep B vaccinations.
A research specialist was using forceps to eliminate air bubbles during cover slipping process. The forceps fell off the work surface and punctured the employee's inner left thigh.
A lab assistant was washing lab glassware and a piece of broken glassware cut the space between the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> fingers on the right hand. The employee received stitches at UNC Emergency Department.
A post-doctoral researcher was cutting tape for laboratory procedures and cut right thumb on metal serrated edge. Bacitracin ointment was applied.

An associate professor was opening a glass desiccator when it broke, cutting the right arm. The wound was cleaned and TDAP was given at UEOHC.
A post-doctoral researcher was taking a flask used to grow bacterial cultures out of a shaker and it broke cutting the right index finger. The employee received TDAP.
A graduate student was trying to open a stopcock of a glass desiccator. When it wouldn't open easily more pressure was applied and the nozzle broke. The right hand was sliced open below the thumb. Incident occurred after UEOHC clinic hours so employee went to Campus Health.
A research associate was giving instruction on use of new HPLC equipment and a Biosafety Level 2 agent was sprayed when the high-pressure line on a HPLC failed.
A research technician was dissecting a cystic fibrosis patient donated lung tissue on the open bench. A small amount of fluid splashed into eye.
A postdoctoral researcher splashed a Biosafety Level 2 agent into their eyes.
A lab employee was trying to get bubble out of syringe for an LPS injection and solution splashed in both eyes.
A research technician was knocked over by a dog when it ran out of pen. Employee grabbed fence to keep from falling and heard loud pop in shoulder and felt tingling down arm and fingers. The employee had work restrictions for seven days.
Five researchers receiving instruction on the use of new HPLC equipment had a possible inhalation of Biosafety Level 2 agent that sprayed when the high-pressure line on the HPLC failed.
A researcher working in a tissue culture lab complained of headaches, dizziness and nausea. Called EHS and was referred to UEOHC. Employee worried about CO and CO2 levels and EHS performed monitoring and found all levels well below limits. Employee cautioned not to spend extended period of time in tissue culture facility.
A research technician working on computers went to UEOHC complaining of headache and nausea caused by gas leak in lab. Leak investigated by EHS and repaired.

For incidents, there were 8 laboratory hood complaints, 8 odor complaints, 4 natural gas leaks, 4 miscellaneous complaints, 3 chemical spills, 2 mercury spills, 2 biohazards, 2 fire alarms, and 1 indoor air quality complaint.

#### **Other Committee Business**

Brennan informed the committee that Bonnie-Taylor Blake was stepping down after several years as a committee member.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.