

# MINUTES

## LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 (101 Rosenau Hall)

**Members Present:** Catherine Brennan, Pat Boone, Kimberlie Burns, Nita Eskew, Mary Beth Koza, Stephanie Murray, Todd O'Buckley, Courtney Roberts

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Anthony Hackney, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Meeting commenced at 3:00 pm.

### University of Hawaii Incident

Brennan gave an overview of a recent major accident that occurred at the University of Hawaii Manoa on March 16, 2016. A postdoctoral fellow was working in a growth chamber with a flammable gas mixture (70% hydrogen/25% oxygen/5% carbon dioxide) when an explosion occurred. The researcher sustained major injuries including loss of an arm. Currently, Hawaii OSHA and the UCLA Laboratory Safety Institute are investigating. Here at UNC-CH, EHS immediately sent an email alert to all Principal Investigators and Safety Supervisors and asked that labs notify us if they have similar set-ups. EHS will work with these labs to do a safety assessment and complete a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for inclusion in the lab safety plan.

### New DEA Controlled Substances training

EHS has just release a new [DEA Controlled Substances training](#) to aid researchers who use controlled substances on campus. There are approximately 65 DEA controlled substances research licenses at UNC-CH. The new online training focuses on four areas: Understanding DEA controlled substances; Obtaining licensure; Securing, documenting, and using substances in the lab; and Disposal. The training also includes IACUC information and links since a lot of users utilize controlled substances in animal research. The training is currently live on the EHS website as an optional one-time training.

### General Lab Safety Refresher training

The topic of a lab safety refresher was brought up again to the committee. Brennan summarized the current one-time lab safety orientation training that researchers take when they first register as lab workers. This orientation training is quite long but covers both lab and general workplace safety. The proposed lab safety refresher training would be shorter and only focus on lab safety items. The consensus from the committee was that it should occur every three years but be very brief. The committee would like to discuss further before finalizing.

### Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from March and April, 2016.

| INJURY TYPE                       | INJURY   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ABSORPTION, INGESTION, INHALATION | Employee had possible chemical exposure after weighing out Hexamethylene Diisocyanate on scale outside of fume hood.   |
| ABSORPTION, INGESTION, INHALATION | Employee was administering 2% Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) to mouse via oral gavage and splashed chemical into eye due to mouse struggling during administration. |
| ABSORPTION, INGESTION, INHALATION | Employee felt ill after inhaling fumes from floor wax going on in hallway outside lab.   |
| ANIMAL BITE                       | Employee was leaving exam room when dog bit left hand and left leg.  |
| BLOOD EXPOSURE – NEEDLESTICK      | Employee suffered a needle stick when retrieving supplies from a lab refrigerator. Unknown source or contamination on needle.                                      |
| CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE             | Employee cut right index finger on broken used serological glass pipet while cleaning glassware.   |
| CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE             | Employee was collecting tissue from a mouse and accidentally stuck themselves with pair of scissors on left thumb.   |
| CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE             | Employee cut hands after dropping and breaking a beaker while washing glassware.   |
| FALL, SLIP OR TRIP                | Employee slipped on recently washed hallway floor outside lab.   |
| STRAIN                            | Employee strained right hand, wrist and elbow while pipetting in   |

|        |  |
|--------|--|
|        | lab.   |
| STRAIN | Employee strained side of torso after moving and packing a 140 lb cooler for shipment. |

For incidents, there were 4 fire alarms, 2 fume hoods, 2 gas leak (natural), 2 odor complaints, 1 chemical spills, and 2 mercury spills.

**Other Committee Business**

Koza brought up the [APLU safety report](#) which includes institution wide dynamics and resources for implementing safety culture. EHS is looking into adding a positive reinforcement for labs that perform well during safety inspections. This positive reinforcement will coincide with the Olympics and include Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates based on lab safety performance. The launch date is July 2016 and all gold medal winners will be recognized on the EHS website and with an email to Dean and Department Chairs. Brennan gave an update on the sub-committee that is looking into communications with Safety Supervisors. Ideas from the sub-committee include hosting a meeting or lunch time talk on various safety topics or having someone from industry come talk about safety practices.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.