

MINUTES LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 (3076 Bondurant Hall)

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander (via phone), Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Nita Eskew, Stephanie Murray, Todd O'Buckley, Jim Potts, Kathryn Reissner

Members Absent: Kimberlie Burns, Anthony Hackney, Mary Beth Koza, Rihe Liu

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

EHS Annual Report

Brennan distributed copies of the [2016 EHS Annual Report](#). The report covers activities and accomplishments of EHS as well as related safety committees. The Lab & Chemical Safety Committee (LCSC) information is located on page 58 and includes the committee's 2016 accomplishments and 2017 goals.

Safe Science – Culture of Safety

Brennan highlighted the recent letter written by Chancellor Folt regarding culture of safety as part of Research Week at UNC. It is available at the following link on the EHS website: <https://ehs.unc.edu/lab/safescience/>. One of the 2017 goals of the LCSC is deriving a definition or slogan for culture of safety. Several related programs and slogans were examined and the committee brainstormed ideas for a slogan. Brennan will bring back a slogan and mock-up logo to future meeting for approval.

Cuts & Punctures

Another 2017 goal for LCSC is related to reducing cut and puncture injuries by utilizing various modes of communication to lab researchers. The statistics for the past five years were examined and the "object causing injury" and "task during injury" was further delineated to brainstorm specific prevention ideas. The committee proposed several new ideas that will be utilized in 2018.

Injuries and Incidents

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from September through October, 2017.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
ABSORPTION, INGESTION OR INHALATION	Multiple employees (5) were potentially exposed to infected patient blood samples.
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was bit by a rat during animal handling,
ANIMAL BITE	Employee was handling mouse in biosafety cabinet when mouse latched on with teeth, biting middle finger through glove.
BLOOD EXPOSURE - SPLASH	Employee was injecting mice through tail vein with 1 million AS49 cells (lung adenocarcinoma). Some of the solution splashed in employees face and eyes. Employee immediately used the eyewash station.
BURN OR SCALD, HEAT OR COLD	Employee was waiting to use autoclave. Other user in removing items from autoclave knocked water bottle off cart. The bottle had hot water for probe and splashed on employee.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Employee was cleaning biological safety cabinet, and an old crusty buildup had embedded small piece of glass. Employee was cut on right middle fingertip.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	An employee was using a razor blade to remove labels on glassware. The razor blade slipped and cut thumb.
CUT, PUNCTURE, SCRAPE	Visiting Scholar was using razor blade to cut vacuum tube when razor blade slipped and cut finger.
FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee was putting formalin into a cryovial and the formalin splashed out and hit eye.
FOREIGN MATTER IN EYE	Employee was doing tissue culture work on human cell lines when a piece of glass pipette broke and hit my eye. The

	employee later changed description of incident and reported it was a piece of paper affixed to Biological Safety Cabinet.
STRIKING AGAINST OR STEPPING ON	Employee was lifting dog carrier and hit head on exhaust cover when raising up from lift.

For incidents, there were 4 fire alarms, 6 odor complaints and 3 chemical spills.

Other Committee Business

No other committee business discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.