



NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Lorraine Alexander, Catherine Brennan, Michael Geary (for Pat Boone), Anthony Hackney, Michael Liang, Rihe Liu, Todd O’Buckley, Jim Potts, Nick Tshlis

**Visitors Present:** Garry Coulson

**Members Absent:** Nita Eskew, Mary Beth Koza, Kathryn Reissner, Sarah Scarry

Meeting commenced at 3:05 pm.

**Hurricane Florence Lessons Learned**

Brennan gave an overview of UNC-CH preparation efforts for Hurricane Florence. EHS has a Hurricane and Tornado Preparedness webpage and checklist (<https://ehs.unc.edu/emergency/hurricane-tornado-preparedness-unc-laboratories/>) that labs can use to prepare for severe weather. In preparation for Hurricane Florence, EHS sent out emails asking labs to prepare and also reminding lab staff that they should not come in under Condition 2 unless mandatory employees. Brennan also described EHS efforts during Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation. Finally, the committee was updated on UNC-CH EHS response and support for UNC Wilmington which sustained severe damage to campus and most notably their Biology and Chemistry building. Five EHS staff were sent to Wilmington after the storm to help with recovery.

**Biosafety Month – Freezer Inventory**

Coulson updated the committee on Biosafety Month and the resulting letter that was sent out to laboratories that work with infectious agents. Biosafety Month is a national initiative that UNC-CH has participated in for several years. This year a freezer survey was sent out to labs in order to emphasize that freezers should have emergency contact information posted on freezers, should ensure that freezers are plugged into emergency power, have back-up plans in case a freezer becomes inoperable, and should perform inventories of freezers to identify all infectious agents and/or toxins. Committee members gave feedback on how to make the survey more user friendly.

**Injuries and Incidents**

The Committee reviewed the log of injuries and incidents from July through October 2018.

INJURY TYPE	INJURY
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	While using thiosemicarbazide and chromic-sulfuric acid solution for cleaning laboratory glassware [mixture of sodium dichromate dihydrate; chromium (VI) trioxide; sulfuric acid] inside of a chemical fume hood, the employee experienced burning in their throat and chest.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	Chemical inhalation exposure to phenyl phosphine while employee was working in a glove box.
Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	The Employee started experiencing symptoms consistent with exposure to a biological agent that employee works with under current research protocol.
Animal Bite	The researcher was scruffing a mouse to give it second dose of pertussis toxin when it turned around and bit the left index finger.
Animal Bite	The Employee was restraining the mouse to administer the injection when the mouse bit the Employee on the left index finger.
Blood Exposure - Needlestick	The employee grabbed a tuberculin syringe during cleanup when the sheath fell off and the needle stuck the thumb on the left hand.

Blood Exposure - Scalpel	Employee cut left index finger with a scalpel blade. Employee was loading a scalpel blade into a scalpel blade handle when this accident occurred.
Blood Exposure - Scalpel	The employee was working at the bench sorting blood clots from a 96 well plate. The forceps used for removing blood clots were placed in the lab coat pocket which then struck the left forearm and punctured the skin through the lab coat sleeve.
Blood Exposure – Splash	The employee was opening a plasma collection tube and received a splash in the face.
Blood Exposure – Splash	Employee received small splash of pancreatic cancer cells on right side of face while working in biosafety cabinet.
Burn or Scald	Employee exposed gloved hand to small amount of Bromomethylacetate/Diisopropylethylamine/Acetonitrile mixture and felt a tingle on hand. Employee removed glove, washed hands with soap and water and reported to UEOHC.
Burn or Scald	Employee was taking items out of autoclave and water spilled on ankle causing burn of ankle.
Burn or Scald	Employee was opening a tube that contained RNA Stat 60 and a small amount flicked onto their bare wrist. The employee rinsed the area and then reported to the UEPHC.
Burn or Scald	Employee stepped into a puddle of liquid nitrogen in hallway and some liquid splashed onto foot. Employee reported to UEOHC.
Burn or Scald	Employee was working with solutions of arsenic, boron and manganese and when they removed their gloves they felt a burning sensation on left wrist. Employee washed wrist and hands and did not report to supervisor until next day.
Burn or Scald	Employee was removing bagged and stacked cages from autoclave. When they lifted, hot water sitting on top of bag splashed onto neck. Employee refused treatment and did not receive any medical care.
Burn or Scald	Employee was attempting to open autoclave and sustained a steam/hot water burn to midsection and legs. Employee was transported via EMS to Emergency Room
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee cut left thumb on razor blade of rotary Microtome.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	The employee received a cut to the left hand from the serrated edge of an aluminum foil box.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	The employee was transferring mice to an animal carcass bag and was stuck in the right middle finger with a needle left in mouse carcass.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	The researcher was using a pair of hemostats to remove a rusted blade from a blade holder when the hemostats slipped and the blade cut the right ring finger.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	The employee was preparing syringes for tumor inoculations and possibly stuck his left index finger with the needle.
Cut, Puncture, Scrape	Employee was injecting HIV infected humanized mice with fusion inhibitors. The employee tied to re-cap needle after injections and as a result the employee punctured left thumb. The employee washed and bled wound, reported to Supervisor and reported to UEOHC,
Fall, Slip or Trip	Employee slipped and hit head on a biosafety cabinet handle sustaining a small cut to the head. Slip was due to wearing show covers on slippery floor.
Foreign Matter In Eye	Chemical splash to eye from chlorhexidine gluconate antiseptic soap solution.



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Foreign Matter in Eye	Employee splashed formalin in left eye while opening an Eppendorf tube.
Strain: Repetitive Motion	Researcher has developed wrist strain in right wrist from years of repetitive pipette use in laboratory setting.
Struck or Injured By	Researcher was recapping a needle when the needle pierced through the cap and punctured skin on right middle finger.
Struck or Injured By	The researcher stuck the right foot in front of a cart rolling down a hill to stop it.
Struck or Injured By	Employee was struck in the head by a plastic graduated cylinder while standing at the sink.

For incidents, there were 2 biohazards, 14 fire alarms, 2 gas leaks, 1 miscellaneous, 22 odor complaints, and 4 chemical spills.

### **Other Committee Business**

Brennan went into more detail regarding the autoclave burn injury/incident and subsequent investigation.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.