



January 19th – MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kristine Barnette, Catherine Brennan, Michael Davern, Anthony Hackney, Kathryn Harper, Sara Johnson, Todd O'Buckley,

Visitors Present: Nick Caligari and Sydney Harris

Members Absent: [Pat Boone](#), Rihe Liu, Kathleen Nevins, Kathryn Reissner, Sarah Scarry

Meeting commenced at 3:01 pm.

Reviewing of Last Meetings Minutes

Committee Member Changes

New student member, Michael Davern, has joined the committee. He is a first-year graduate student working in the Surrat Lab.

Safety Moment

Harper presented a safety moment on broken glass in laboratories. Cuts from broken glass are one of the most common lab injuries. Harper outlined a comprehensive checklist by Qorpak, illustrating before, during and after use of glassware. The checklist can be found with this link [The Laboratory Glassware Safety Cycle \(qorpak.com\)](http://qorpak.com)

COVID -19 Update

Brennan provided us with an update on the COVID situation considering the recent omicron variant outbreak. Since January 1st, 1629 students and 270 employees tested positive, with an asymptomatic rate of 13.67%. On campus 94% of students and 90% of employees are vaccinated. The requirement for weekly testing if not vaccinated is still in place. The federal mandate for vaccination or exemption is still on hold. Brennan also went over recent CDC guidance changes. On Jan. 9th the CDC updated isolation/quarantine guidance, reducing to 5-day isolation and for unvaccinated reducing quarantine to 5 days. On Jan 14th they updated consumer mask/respirator guidance webpage emphasizing protection, fit, and comfort. Specifically, it also states that if employer provides N95s then they must comply with OSHA Respiratory Protection Program. On Jan 17th the CDC updated the language on website regarding vaccines – saying to stay up to date with your vaccines – meaning a person has received all recommended vaccines, including any booster doses when eligible.

Policy update: Chemical Waste Disposal (EHS Manual Chapter 05.07 and Laboratory Safety Manual Chapter 12)

Harris presented a review of UNC's chemical waste disposal policies. As a hazardous waste generator, the university is required to comply with the EPA and DOT regulations. Laboratories are responsible for correctly identifying waste. EHS assists by transporting waste from labs to our Hazardous Materials Facility. Harris reviewed labeling requirement and use of secondary containment for storing. This policy also calls for waste minimization, through experiment redesign, use of nonhazardous materials, and recycling. Harris also addressed proper hazard identification and the use of ECO funnel for active waste collection bottles. Harris proposed wording changes to the text of the policy and fixing a broken link. The following additions to the Laboratory Safety Manual were proposed: 1. IV. Part 2: Best Management Practices for Chemical Waste Storage "Chemical waste is required to be stored at or near the point of generation and is not to be stored in a separate room or down the hall" 2. V. Part 2: Other Laboratory Wastes: Photographic Waste "Photographic waste can be potentially hazardous due to corrosivity associated with development baths as well as high levels of silver. To manage this type of waste, a silver recovery unit must be present and maintained. Used film is to be stored in properly labelled containers and no discarded film is to be present in ordinary trash receptacles." None of the changes were objected to and passed committee.



UNC-CH LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

LCSC Goals

Johnson reviewed committee goals made in 2021. Due to COVID some of the goals were unable to be completed and it was agreed that they would carry over for goals for this year.

2021 Goals:

- Support bringing American Chemical Society (ACS) graduate student safety training to UNC-CH and have committee participate in training. **Due to COVID this goal was not able to be achieved**
- EHS/Committee outreach at department/group/PI level regarding safety culture. **EHS has begun a relationship with the JST in Chemistry Dept. Safety Moments are being present at committee meetings. Committee members are encouraged to share moments with their labs, ChemSafety is tweeting the moments once a month (“Safety First Friday”), and the JST is starting a databank for Safety Moments. Committee agreed this should continue being an active goal.**
- Support and help integrate TarHeel Mission Ready/Continuity Plans into lab research. **This is no longer under EHS, but is under Emergency Management**
- Provide update and discussion regarding EHS responses to Internal Audit. **Johnson provided a brief overview of the progress made towards audit findings. EHS has agreed to provide the committee with any update as they are completed.**

2022 Goals:

- Support bringing web based graduate student safety training to UNC-CH and have committee participate in training.
- EHS/Committee outreach at department/group/PI level regarding safety culture.
- Safety Supervisor training- targeting new people.

Incident Report

Johnson reviewed the incidents for November and January. Also, Incidents and Injuries for the year were reviewed. Cut and punctures were the most common injury followed by chemical exposures. Incidents and injuries were higher in 2021 compared to 2020, most likely due to increased lab activity since the onset of the pandemic.

Injury Date	Report Date	Building	Department	Injury Type	Injury Description
11/17/2021	11/17/2021	Murray Hall	CHEMISTRY	ABSORPTION- DERMATITIS	Went/hives broke out on employee's hands while working with chemicals in full PPE.
12/07/2021	12/08/2021	Venable Hall	CHEMISTRY	ABSORPTION- DERMATITIS	The cause is unclear, but employee's fingers were discolored after removing nitrile gloves
11/04/2021	11/05/2021	Morehead Chemistry Labs	CHEMISTRY	INHALATION	Employee inhaled acetic anhydride fumes while responding to a large spill.
12/06/2021	12/06/2021	Marsico Hall	BIOLOGY	FALL- FAINTING	Employee was making buffers solutions in lab when they began feeling dizzy. While attempting to reach a chair the employee fell. They did not lose consciousness or injury themselves in the fall.

11/12/2021	11/17/2021	Taylor Hall	PSYCHIATRY - RESEARCH	BURN	Employee was removing samples from -80° and touch the cold metal burning their arm.
11/17/2021	11/17/2021	Genetic Medicine Research Bldg	GENETICS CURRICULUM	LACERATION	Employees cut themselves while dissecting liver
11/04/2021	11/04/2021	Lineberger Cancer Research Center	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	PUNCTURE	Accidental needlestick
12/07/2021	12/07/2021	Genetic Medicine Research Bldg	GENETICS	SCRATCH/ IRRITATION	While being handled a mouse jumped on to employee's face scratching them.
10/27/2021	11/01/2021	NON BUILDING	EARTH MARINE ENVIRONMT SCI	STRAIN	While in the field, employee stepped out of a truck bed and injured themselves.

Type

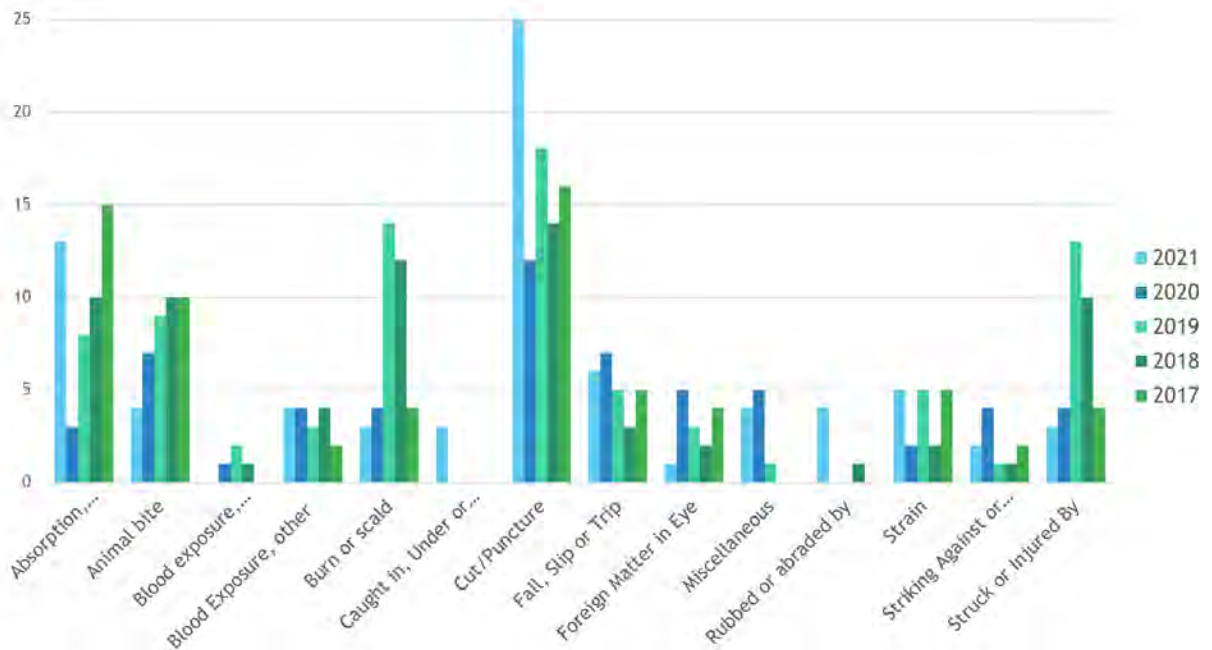
2021 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

<i>Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation</i>	13	3	8	10	15	6	5	7	10	16	5
<i>Animal bite</i>	4	7	9	10	10	9	9	6	6	18	9
<i>Blood exposure, needlestick</i>	0	1	2	1	0	8	4	5	2	10	5
<i>Blood Exposure, other</i>	4	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	4
<i>Burn or scald</i>	3	4	14	12	4	3	3	6	1	3	12
<i>Caught in, Under or Between</i>	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Cut/Puncture</i>	25	12	18	14	16	13	15	17	17	19	18
<i>Fall, Slip or Trip</i>	6	7	5	3	5	4	7	3	4	6	5
<i>Foreign Matter in Eye</i>	1	5	3	2	4	0	0	2	0	1	2
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	4	5	1	0	0	2	3	4	0	2	10
<i>Rubbed or abraded by</i>	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2



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<i>Strain</i>	5	2	5	2	5	9	6	6	8	10	6
<i>Striking Against or Stepping On</i>	2	4	1	1	2	1	6	3	4	5	3
<i>Struck or Injured By</i>	3	4	13	10	4	1	3	2	4	5	8
TOTALS	78	58	82	70	67	49	65	64	60	101	89



Other Committee Business

Johnson reminded everyone about incoming winter storm on Friday Jan 21st. Stephen Tereniak volunteered to give the safety moment at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.