



## UNC-CH LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

### May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Pat Boone, Catherine Brennan, Lisa Cremeans, Kathryn Harper, Sara Johnson, Rihe Liu, Todd O'Buckley, Kathryn Reissner, Nick Tshilis

**Visitors Present:** Nick Caligari

**Members Absent:** Lorraine Alexander, Anthony Hackney, Michael Liang, Sarah Scarry

Meeting commenced at 3:03 pm.

#### Reviewing of Last Meetings Minutes

##### Committee Member Changes

Michael Liang graduated and vacated student committee seat. We are looking for a new student member, all nominations should be sent to Johnson. Johnson has reached out to the Chemistry Department Joint Safety Team (JST) for possible interest in the seat. Nita Eskew has left the committee and is replaced by Kathleen Nevins.

##### Policy update: Mercury and \*New\* Laboratory Entrance Sign Policies

Caligari presented a review of the Mercury-Free Policy. While no changes were made to the policy, Caligari felt it was important to review the policy, as mercury is one of the most significant environmental toxins. It also reinforces the commitment to eliminating or reducing the use of elemental mercury on campus. Caligari also presented a new policy on Laboratory Entrance Signs. The purpose of the policy is to identify hazards present in the lab space before entering and to provide accurate contact information in case of an emergency. Lab entrance signs are required by regulatory agencies. There is an electronic system in place for labs to request signs. Responsible parties for the lab signs are the PIs and/or Safety Supervisor and EHS. The PI and/or Safety Supervisor are responsible for identifying hazards present in the laboratory and providing accurate contact information. EHS is responsible for providing signs and reviewing them during annual inspections. Committee comments were made regarding shared rooms and whether there should be multiple signs showing hazard ownership instead of a single sign with multiple owners. Johnson brought up the need for clarity about what rooms required a sign, not just laboratory, but also cold, instrumentation, and stock rooms.

##### Internal Audit: Chemical Inventory, Storage and Disposal

Johnson described the internal audit process and presented the three findings made by auditor. Johnson, Brennan, and Steve Parker participated in the internal audit. The auditor conducted several interviews, an extensive document search and a couple of site visits (including a tour of the hazardous materials storage facilities and laboratory inspection). The audit began in January of 2021 and findings were sent to EHS in May. Three findings for improvements were made with recommendations around: (1) streamlining and expanding the chemical inventory process to include hazard data, (2) Implementing more purchasing controls for highly hazardous chemicals, and (3) Updating existing UNC Health contract for hazardous waste disposal.

##### LCSC Goals

Johnson reviewed committee goals made in 2019. 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.

2019 Goals:

- Provide webpage for Lab Safety Supervisors that includes responsibilities and FAQs.
  - COMPLETED <https://ehs.unc.edu/lab/lss/>
- Support bringing American Chemical Society (ACS) graduate student safety training to UNC-CH and have committee participate in training.



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- EHS/Committee outreach at department/group/PI level regarding safety culture.
- Support and help integrate TarHeel Mission Ready/Continuity Plans into lab research.

### 2021 Goals:

- Support bringing American Chemical Society (ACS) graduate student safety training to UNC-CH and have committee participate in training.
- EHS/Committee outreach at department/group/PI level regarding safety culture.
- Support and help integrate TarHeel Mission Ready/Continuity Plans into lab research.
- Provide update and discussion regarding EHS responses to Internal Audit.

### **Incident Report**

Due to limited time remaining in the meeting, incidents for March and April will be discussed at the meeting in July.

### **Other Committee Business**

O'Buckley inquired about potential new IACUC Autoclave policy, and other responses to AAALAC inspection. There is some confusion on how often bioindicators should be used for autoclaves and what type. Following the meeting Tsihilis sent out an email with information regarding what his lab uses and Johnson forwarded the email to all committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.