



UNC-CH LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

September 15th, 2021 – MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Lorraine Alexander, Kristine Barnette, Catherine Brennan, Sara Johnson, Rihe Liu, Kathleen Nevins, Todd O'Buckley, Kathryn Reissner, Stephen Tereniak, Nick Tsihlis

Visitors Present: Nick Caligari and Sydney Harris

Members Absent: [Pat Boone](#), Anthony Hackney, Kathryn Harper, Sarah Scarry,

Meeting commenced at 3:01 pm.

Reviewing of Last Meetings Minutes

Briefly introduced new Chemical Safety Team Member, Sydney Harris

Safety Moment

First safety moment of committee meetings. Johnson presented a slide on PPE, featuring the minimum dress for laboratory work. All Lab workers working with, or around hazardous materials must dress appropriately. Workers should reduce the amount of visible skin to help mitigate exposure risk. No skimpy clothes should be worn in the laboratory.

COVID 19- Update:

Brennan gave a brief COVID-19 update to the committee. National, state, and local statistics were summarized. At UNC since August 1st, 564 student and 95 employees have tested positive. There have been 5 cluster events: School of Pharmacy even and four different student dorms. The campus vaccination rates to date are 92% of students and 89% of employees. The deadline for everyone to verify vaccination or be tested weekly is extended from September 15th to October 1st.

DEQ/ EPA University Inspection

Johnson informed the committee about the recent EPA and DEQ inspection. A few of the findings were shared with the committee. More information will be shared at next meeting.

Morehead update

Nevins provided a construction update for Morehead teaching labs. Construction projects included HVAC upgrades, lab room renovations, classroom space upgrades, and a few building wide upgrades, such as a new fire alarm system and lights. Nevins shared a few before and after photos with the committee. Teaching assistants will return to the building on August 9th and undergraduate students will be back at 100% capacity this fall. Masks are required inside labs in accordance with university policy.

Policy update: Dangerous Gas Policy

Caligari reviewed the UNC dangerous gas policy with the committee. The purpose of the policy is to establish minimum standards for lab workers that utilize dangerous gases, reduce the likelihood of a release, and ensure everyone's safety. A dangerous gas is one that may cause significant acute health effects at low concentration, such as toxics, highly toxic and pyrophoric gases. PIs are the primary responsible party and must train all laboratory personnel, calibrate, and maintain sensors, and keep inventory up to date. All Lab employees must review all SOPs and LSPs at least annually. EHS will verify inventory, respond to alarms, train first responders as necessary and review and update the dangerous gas policy annually. All dangerous gas cylinders must be stored in ventilated gas cabinets, that are connected to an exhaust system and have internal sprinklers. Caligari found one broken link in the policy that will be corrected.



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Incident Report

Johnson reviewed the incidents for July and August. There has been an increase in incidents and injuries, most likely due to the increase in the number of people returning to work in labs after working from home during the pandemic.

Injury Date	Report Date	Building	Department	Injury Type	Injury Description
08/25/2021	08/25/2021	Taylor Hall	COMPARATIVE MEDICINE	Animal Bite	STEPPED ON FIRE ANT HILL ON GRASS NEAR TAYLOR HALL
08/10/2021	08/10/2021	Kenan Labs	CHEMISTRY	Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	SCHLENK FLASK SLIPPED OFF REFLUX CONDENSER INTO OIL BATH, SPRAYING ITS CONTENTS ONTO MY FACE IN THE PROCESS
08/19/2021	08/19/2021	MacNider Hall	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	LIQUID NITROGEN FELL ON MY INNER ELBOW. I REMOVED IT WITHIN 3 SECONDS.
07/23/2021	07/23/2021	Genome Sciences Building	CHEMISTRY	Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	PHENOL CONTACT ON SKIN WHILE WORKING IN HOOD
08/02/2021	08/02/2021	Caudill Labs	CHEMISTRY	Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation	ADDING H ₂ O TO COOLED REACTION TO TFA. ACID SPRAYED OUT ONTO THE EMPLOYEES FACE.
08/25/2021	08/25/2021	Mary Ellen Jones	MED-UNC BLOOD RESEARCH CENTER	Miscellaneous	ELEVATOR STOPPED ABRUPTLY AND DROPPED A SHORT DISTANCE. RIGHT KNEE WAS INJURED.
08/12/2021	08/12/2021	Medical Biomolecular Research Bldg	MEDICINE- GASTROENTEROLOGY	Caught in, Under or Between	PUSHING A CART OF LABORATORY SUPPLIES WHILE PULLING THE DOOR BACK, THERE WAS NO DOOR STOP AND THEIR HAND WAS SLAMMED BETWEEN THE DOOR AND THE BRICK WALL.

08/10/2021	08/10/2021	Morehead Addition	EARTH MARINE ENVIRONMT SCI	Caught in, Under or Between	EMPLOYEE WAS ASSISTING GRADUATE STUDENT WITH PROJECT, WHILE ON A FLOATING BOAT DOCK. HER LEG SLIPPED IN BETWEEN THE LARGE GAPS IN THE DOCK AND WAS TRAPPED AT THE KNEE AND UNABLE TO FREE
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					THE LEG FOR SEVERAL MINUTES.
07/29/2021	07/29/2021	Cardinal Deck	EPIDEMIOLOGY	Fall, Slip or Trip	TRIPPED OVER A PROTUBERANCE IN THE EMPLOYEE PARKING DECK
07/15/2021	07/15/2021	Neurosciences Research Bldg	MED-UNC BLOOD RESEARCH CENTER	Blood Exposure, other	DISECTING COXSACKIE B3 MOUSE, PICKED UP WRONG END OF RAZOR BLADE AND CUT MY FINGER
08/26/2021	08/26/2021	Baity Lab	ENVIR SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING	Fall, Slip or Trip	THERE WAS A PUDDLE OF WATER ON TOP OF THE STAIRS (BALCONY) WHERE EQUIPMENT IS STORED. HE WAS WALKING DOWN, CARRYING LARGE EQUIPMENT AND SLIPPED HALF WAY DOWN.
08/10/2021	08/10/2021	Neurosciences Research Bldg	NEUROLOGY	Cut/Puncture	SMALL FINGER STICK FROM A GLASS SHARD WHILE AUTOCLAVING A BAG OF HAZARDOUS WASTE.
08/09/2021	08/09/2021	Davie Hall	PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE	Cut/Puncture	CLEANING SHAKER INSTRUMENT W/ ETHANOL + PAPER TOWEL, SLICED FINGER ON METAL EDGE OF EQUIPMENT
08/27/2021	08/27/2021	Thurston-Bowles Bldg	THURSTON ARTHRITIS RES CENTER	Blood Exposure, other	ASPIRATING HUMAN BLOOD AND THE GLASS PIPETTE BROKE AND CUT HIS THUMB.
07/13/2021	07/13/2021	Caudill Labs	CHEMISTRY	Cut/Puncture	CUT ON RIGHT FOREFINGER BY BROKEN GLASS

07/14/2021	07/14/2021	Taylor Hall	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Striking Against or Stepping On	RECYCLING A BOX, BENT OVER TO PUT IT ON THE FLOOR, STOOD UP AND HIT HEAD ON THE METAL JUNCTION BOX ON THE WALL.
08/24/2021	08/24/2021	Mary Ellen Jones	GRADUATE EDUCATION - SOM	Cut/Puncture	WHILE GRABBING BAG OF SURGICAL SUPPLIES, A LOOSE NEEDLE PUNCTURED THROUGH BAG AND THROUGH SKIN ON RT. RING FINGER
06/30/2021	07/12/2021	Marsico Hall	MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY	Cut/Puncture	AIDING AN ANIMAL STUDY. ACCIDENTALLY POKED BACK OF HAND WITH A NEEDLE WHILE MOVING IN THE BIOSAFETY HOOD



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Other Committee Business

Johnson reminded the committee that there is still an open seat for a student member. Committee discussed doing an in person meeting for November. It was decided to keep the meeting virtual and discuss the possibility in spring. O'Buckley volunteered to present a safety moment for the next meeting. Nevins asked a question about liability on safety coordinators or officers during emergencies. Brennan answer that there are no liabilities on those individuals. Brennan reminded the committee about the flu clinic and where everyone could find dates and times. Flu is predicted to be bad this year and everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated. Tsihlis announced that this would be his last committee meeting, he is moving to UVA.

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.