



UNC-CH LABORATORY AND CHEMICAL SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 17th, 2024 – Agenda

Members Present: Cathy Brennan, Amanda Chung, Lorraine Alexande, Michael Davern, Kathleen Nevins, Stephen Tereniak, Todd O'Buckley

Visitors Present: Patrick Truesdell, Jing Wang

Members Absent: Kristine Barnette, Pat Boone, Rihe Liu, Kathryn Reissner

Meeting commenced at 3:03 pm

Safety Moment – Michael – Compressed Gas Safety

- Went over classification of compressed gases (non-flammable, nontoxic, toxic/corrosive, flammable, and oxidizing)
- Do's and Don'ts – always use a cart / carrier with restraining device or chain when moving, use the buddy system, use the empty/in use/full tags, use approved regulator. During storage, always have the cylinder capped when not in use, secure all cylinders to the wall with chains or straps, and position tanks with labels visible.
 - Don't move cylinders more than 5 ft without a cart or carrier, don't catch a falling cylinder, don't get into an elevator with a full/in use cylinder. Don't store incompatible gases together, don't expose cylinders to corrosive materials, don't store them for over three years, don't expose to temps greater than 52 Celsius (126 Fahrenheit)

Safety Discussion – DNA/RNA Kits and Bleach & Emergency Shut Down

- DNA/RNA kits and Bleach and Emergency Shut Down Fact Sheets were presented.
- Feedback included additional photos or creating better images to display information and including date
- Fact sheets to be posted in lab spaces
- Discussed additional potential fact sheets including PPE, cut and puncture (common injury), sink disposal, and ELISA kits.

Policy Review and Update – Introduction, Ch 1 – 3

- Introduction – updating for current EHS practices, offices, information, and linking other chapters
- Ch 1 – combining responsibilities section for clarity and comprehension, updating information about annual reports, updating mercury section, and consistency for appendices.
- Ch 2 – Update for information regarding laboratory safety plan and clarity of information on sections, updating for all links, consistency with sections and appendices.
 - Discussed additional clarity about Schedule I and requirements about shipping
- Ch 3 – Updating for clearer images and accuracy regarding glassware procedures.

Incident Reports and Data

- See Incident Table in Appendix. 26 total incidents
- Noting: 1 chemical exposure, 4 glass cuts, 4 needle stick injuries, 3 animal bites
- Will look at experience of workers for upcoming review of incident data
 - Discussion included potentially including survey after investigation to gain insight about the number of incidents occurring if potentially just resulting in more reporting / knowledge about reporting incidents and near-misses.

JST Updates

- Upcoming Fall LSO training
- ChemInventory department license was purchased – working on training and integration
- Looking for additional recruitment of JST members

Chem Safety Team Updates

- EPA released new dichloromethane ruling, chem safety will be working on sending out information regarding the ruling and implementation of ruling.
- Revising information on laboratory closeout and move procedures



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- Providing additional information for chemical hazard forms for animal protocols
- Adding information regarding field safety to Laboratory Safety Manual

LCSC Update and Meeting Schedule

- Next Meeting October 16th, 2024 (virtual)
- Review of upcoming Lab Safety Manual Chapter 4-10
- Upcoming 2025 meeting dates

Meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm

Appendix:

Injury report table Q2 2024:

Date	Department	Type	Description
4/23/2024	GENETICS	Burn or Scald - Heat or Cold Exposures - Contact With Cold Objects or Substances	Technician was unloading delivery of reagent and pressed his left arm on dry ice. Contact was maintained for 2-3 seconds
6/7/2024	MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY	Burn or Scald - Heat or Cold Exposures - Contact With Fire or Flame	Working at the bench in lab wearing nitrile gloves and sterilizing tool with ETOH and flame when glove caught fire
6/21/2024	CHEMISTRY	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Broken Glass	was trying to separate two glass objects stuck together. Twisted and part of the glass broke, cutting the palm of my hand
6/20/2024	CHEMISTRY	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Broken Glass	Removing plastic tubing from glass T-joint. Glass broken and cut finger.
6/26/2024	CHEMISTRY	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Broken Glass	Closing a glass container, the glass shattered and cut into left pinky finger.
5/6/2024	SOP-CBMC	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Hand Tool, Utensil; Not Powered	[[redacted]] aspirating off the phosphate buffered saline from the tube when I stuck and cut myself with the glass pipette I was using for aspiration. [[redacted info]]
4/18/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Hand Tool, Utensil; Not Powered	Needle stick happened after injecting [[redacted]]
6/6/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Hand Tool, Utensil; Not Powered	Needle stick contaminated with human blood.
6/5/2024	GRADUATE EDUCATION - SOM	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Hand Tool, Utensil; Not Powered	I was prepping to inject [[redacted]] using glass microinjection needle and my hand brushed into the tip which broke off into my skin (not very deep but enough to draw blood)

5/5/2024	CELL BIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By Hand Tool, Utensil; Not Powered	I opened a glass ampule of 16% Paraformaldehyde in the chemical hood and glass cut my glove and right thumb
5/9/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By NOC	While cleaning bacteria shaker with gloved hands. Employee noticed a laceration in right palm. Bacteria shaker has not been used for over many years ago.
6/24/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By NOC	Using cryostat to cut sample
6/19/2024	ALCOHOL STUDIES CENTER	Cut, Puncture, Scrape - Injured By NOC	Employee was cutting brain on microtome and reached over to defrost stage while blade was exposed.
5/28/2024	COMPARATIVE MEDICINE	Fall, Slip, or Trip Injury From Ladder or Scaffolding	During routine [[redacted]] [[employee]] stepped down off of the stool, missed the step, fell on the floor and landed on wrist.
5/15/2024	COMPARATIVE MEDICINE	Fall, Slip, or Trip Injury On Same Level	Was walking to MBRB, tripped and fell on curb
5/30/2024	THURSTON ARTHRITIS RES CENTER	Miscellaneous Causes Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation, NOC	Added bleach to BSL 2 liquid waste in aspirator flask prior to disposal. Foamed extensively. RNA later solution persist.
6/5/2024	CHEMISTRY	Miscellaneous Causes Absorption, Ingestion or Inhalation, NOC	Syringe filter popped off and chemical splattered onto skin of face
6/28/2024	PATHOLOGY LAB MED - CLINICAL	Miscellaneous Causes Cumulative, NOC; All Other	ergonomic, repetitive motion injury from microscope slide movements [[summary of redacted information]]
6/25/2024	CHEMISTRY	Miscellaneous Causes Other-NOC	I was using a motor and pestle to grind up Potassium Hydroxide into powder when some went up my nose.
4/24/2024	GENETICS	Miscellaneous Causes Other-NOC	No injury, just a spill. Carrying on biohazard bag and unknown liquid spilled onto glove, lab coat, and floor.
7/10/2024	ALCOHOL STUDIES CENTER	Miscellaneous Causes Other-NOC	Remember wiping sweat off of eye, then eye getting red, swollen, puffy. Felt pressure behind eye.
5/8/2024	MARSICO LUNG INST - CF CENTER	Miscellaneous Causes Other-NOC	fixing western blot apparatus and MOPS buffer splashed in right eye



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5/22/2024	CHEMISTRY	Miscellaneous Causes Other-NOC	I was using syringe filter and the syringe popped off, spraying liquid onto me, past my safety glasses and into my eye
5/6/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Stuck or Injured By (Includes Kicked, Stabbed, Bit, etc.) Animal or Insect	animal bite on left thumb during animal handling
5/20/2024	LINEBERGER COMPR CANCER CENTER	Stuck or Injured By (Includes Kicked, Stabbed, Bit, etc.) Animal or Insect	[[redacted summarized information]] employee was bit during animal handling
5/13/2024	CENTER FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE	Stuck or Injured By (Includes Kicked, Stabbed, Bit, etc.) Animal or Insect	[[redacted summarized information]] employee was bit during animal handling