UK Biosafety News
Department of Biological Safety
Newsletter Date September 2014 Volume 8, Issue 5

After the recent incidents involving CDC, NIH and FDA labs, there has been a great deal of discussion of the current status of biosafety and biosecurity and the potential future of this type of research. If you are interested a brief but detailed history of the current status of biosafety regulations the American Society for Microbiology has put together a succinct summary available at http://www.asm.org/images/PSAB/History-SelectAgents.pdf.

There has also recently been a large debate about the necessity of Gain of Function (GOF) research spurred by recent experiments involving Influenza. If you, as a scientist, have a strong opinion on this topic you may be interested in reading the information put forward by the group Scientists for Science, http://www.scientistsforscience.org/.

Minors in Laboratories

The University of Kentucky Minors in Laboratories Policy covers all persons under the age of 18 whether student, employee, or volunteer, conducting research in all UK research laboratories, greenhouses, animal facilities, animal procedure rooms, animal housing areas, clinical laboratories and field work activities. Minors under the age of 14 are **NOT PERMITTED** inside of any research laboratory, greenhouse, or animal facility at the University of Kentucky unless it is for UK sponsored programs which are designed for youth under the age of 14 and which have documented training and safety policies.

Visiting minors, not previously approved as part of a UK program, tour, or science fair, are not allowed in any UK research laboratory, greenhouse, or animal facility for any reason.

Policy:
http://ehs.uky.edu/docs/pdf/ohs_minors_in_labs_0001.pdf

Project Registration Form:
http://ehs.uky.edu/docs/pdf/ohs_minors_in_labs_research_proposal_registration_0001.pdf

Project Risk Assessment:
http://ehs.uky.edu/docs/pdf/ohs_minors_in_labs_project_hazard_assessment_form_0001.pdf

Resist the urge to touch your face!

A recent study published in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* shows that hand to face contact within BSL-2 laboratories may pose a significant risk for exposure to harmful materials. The study included observation of typical lab procedures such as cell culture maintenance, harvesting, and reagent preparation. Even more interesting, is the effect of laboratorians' risk perception when conducting these procedures.

READ IT FOR YOURSELF AT:
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/15459624.2014.887206

LABORATORY SAFETY NIGHTMARE FAIR

FUN!

FOOD!

PRIZES!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 1-3PM
E.S. GOODBARN (COLLEGE OF AG)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 10AM - 2PM
COMBS RESEARCH BUILDING ATRIUM

SPONSORED BY UK DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Have you heard? September is:

National Biosafety Stewardship Month

From the National Institutes of Health:

Notice of National Biosafety Stewardship Month and Health and Safety Requirements for NIH Grantees:

"Recent reports of lapses in biosafety practices involving Federal laboratories have served to remind us of the importance of constant vigilance over our implementation of biosafety standards. These events potentially put individuals at risk, undermine public confidence in the research enterprise, and must be addressed to prevent their reoccurrence. Efforts to strengthen biosafety oversight and practice must be supported and carried out by organizational leadership, biosafety programs, and individual laboratories.
As a measure toward preventing future lapses as well as promoting stewardship of the life sciences and biosafety awareness across Federal entities, Federal laboratories will reinforce their attention to safe practices in biomedical research. In that regard, the NIH and other HHS agencies will be instituting National Biosafety Stewardship Month, and we urge all NIH grantee institutions and/or contractors to do the same at the local level.

In the month of September, NIH laboratories will, and grantee institutions and/or contractors are encouraged to, do the following:

- Reexamine current policies and procedures for biosafety practices and oversight to ascertain whether they require modification to optimize their effectiveness;
- Conduct inventories of infectious agents and toxins in all laboratories to ensure that the institution has a record of which infectious agents and toxins are being utilized, has documentation that those materials are properly stored under the appropriate containment conditions, and has documentation that cites the party responsible for appropriate stewardship of the materials; and
- Reinforce biosafety training of investigators, laboratory staff, and members of IBCs to include
  - Reexamining training materials and practices being utilized by the institution;
  - Updating materials as appropriate; and
  - Ascertaining the appropriate frequency of training and conduct training when the interval between training or other considerations warrant it."

Full NIH Notice available at: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-14-127.html

The University of Kentucky Department of Biological Safety at UK currently provides a comprehensive biosafety program to help you ensure that you meet all of your requirements as an NIH grantee and/or contractor. If you need assistance in assessing your lab's compliance with biosafety practices and procedures, training or Institutional Biosafety Committee registration and approval our department is always available to assist you.

Brandy J. Nelson, *UK Biological Safety Officer*

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MICROBIOLOGY

Public and Scientific Affairs Board

What's in your laboratory freezer?

A series of recent events in microbiology laboratories have reinforced the importance of knowing all the microbes that exist in your lab. The ASM has already issued several statements urging microbiologists in teaching, research, and diagnostic laboratories to take all steps possible to guarantee biosafety, to protect themselves, their co-workers, and the broader public from microorganisms that can cause disease (Biosafety Statement: http://www.asm.org/index.php/public-policy/93-policy/93014-biosafety-7-14 DURC Statement: http://www.asm.org/index.php/public-policy/137-policy/documents/statements-and-testimony/93024-durc-7-31-14)

Today as ASM President I want to reinforce this message and ask you to go one step further. Specifically, I ask all microbiologists to make sure that you and your colleagues know what they have in the lab (freezer, refrigerator, store room, etc). Simply put, I think it is good "laboratory housekeeping" to review what microbes we each have in the lab, inventory them, and use appropriate methods to deposit in an approved collection or destroy any cultures that are no longer needed by our labs. In this way we can each say that we know where things are and are working to provide a safe environment for researchers and students in microbiology labs. We also should consider making sure that someone else can access this information should we leave the laboratory. For principal investigators this would be especially useful in making sure we know what cultures our students leave behind, likewise a prudent safety practice is to make sure that department chairs and local IBCs know where potential pathogens are located.

There are also other potential benefits to this process. Reviewing what's in your freezer might provide space and save money if the newly found space means we no longer need to buy an additional storage unit. Also, remember that deep freezers are probably one of the more energy intensive pieces of laboratory equipment. Thus, any reduction in the number of freezers we need can make microbiology labs more energy efficient.

It is our understanding that the Administration and funding agencies will be undertaking initiatives to enhance laboratory biosafety. The ASM will keep you informed and post information at http://www.asm.org/policy as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Donohue, Ph.D., President, ASM

August 25, 2014

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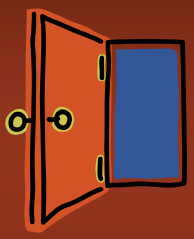
The Dept. of Biological Safety would like to thank the following labs for setting a shining example of lab housekeeping and maintenance. Well done!

Daugherty lab (BBSRB)
Sangderk Lee lab (BBSRB)
Bruemmer lab (BBSRB)
Moncman lab (BBSRB)
Suzuki lab (Med Sci)
Rymond lab (TH Morgan)
Debolt lab (Plant Sci)
Kleinman lab (HSRB)

Biosafety Reminder:

Keep your doors closed!



Per UK policy:

University of Kentucky Environmental Health and Safety policy stipulates that doors to laboratories with biological, chemical or radioactive materials in storage or use must remain closed, and when unoccupied, locked.

The fun side of biosafety

Have some downtime? During your next incubation period, check out this music video our colleagues at the University of Alabama put together!

http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/hosted/gloves.html

University of Kentucky

Department of Biological Safety

As part of the Division of Environmental Health & Safety, the Department of Biological Safety is responsible for programs concerning the safe use of recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids, infectious agents, and potentially infectious materials such as human sourced materials in the research and teaching laboratories at the University of Kentucky. This includes training, auditing, and consulting with researchers, laboratory personnel and teaching staff concerning compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations in these areas.

Visit us on the web!

http://ehs.uky.edu/biosafety/

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