The WVU HSC complex houses over 300 research laboratories.

Department of Health Inspects HSC Laboratories

On February 28, 2008, a West Virginia Department of Health Inspector visited the Health Sciences Center unannounced. The inspector randomly inspected laboratories throughout the HSC complex. The focus of the inspection was on biohazardous waste management. This included biohazardous waste storage, sharps containers and disposal practices.

Two employees from the Health Sciences Center Safety Office accompanied the inspector throughout the complex answering questions and providing information.

Please be aware that an inspector from the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or any other regulatory agency, can visit the Health Sciences Center at any time, unannounced, and request an inspection. It is very important that laboratories practice good chemical hygiene and follow the rules and regulations set by these agencies at all times. Priority areas are:

- No Food or Drink in the Laboratories
- Wearing Personal Protective Equipment
- Hazard Communication
- Knowing Emergency Procedures/Spill Response Procedures

WVU Health Sciences Center

Regulatory Inspection Procedures

What to do when an OSHA, EPA, DEP, or other Inspector comes to your laboratory, office or worksite:

Notify appropriate Dean, Director or Supervisor

Notify Appropriate Campus Compliance Representative:

- HSC Safety Office – 293-6924 (all cases)
- Biological Safety – 293-7517 (in locations with human subjects or animal research)
- Radiation Safety – 293-3413 (in locations where radiation is used)

Inform the inspector that the Campus Compliance Representative (CCR) is on the way and ask them to wait for the CCR. If the inspector cannot wait, escort the inspector on the inspection. Leave a telephone number with the CCR so they can meet you.

Campus Compliance Representative will:

1. Request inspectors’ credentials and copy their credentials
2. Inquire about scope of inspection
3. Request inspection checklist
4. Document inspection
5. Request an exit meeting

In This Issue:

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- Animal Transport and Care
- Laboratory Close Out
- Researcher at a Glance: Lisa Salati
- Fisher Safety Fair
- Fisher Scientific Promotes Safety
- Safety Talk and Tips

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The purpose of the laboratory close-out policy is to alleviate problems associated with the accumulation of waste in laboratories that may contribute to non-compliance with regulatory agencies including, but not limited to, those governing the use of radionuclides, biohazards, laboratory animals and toxic materials. The policy requires principal investigators to complete the Laboratory Close-Out forms:

1.) Upon the departure, change in employment status or termination of active research of the responsible individual(s)

2.) Any change in use of the assigned laboratory.

The responsibility for proper management status of a laboratory lies with the principal investigator to whom the laboratory is assigned. Proper disposition of relevant laboratory materials shall be required from the responsible individual(s) by way of a LABORATORY CLOSEOUT CHECKLIST, which can be found on the HSC Safety Office website (www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety).

If you have any questions, please contact the HSC Safety Office for assistance at 293-6924.

Mercury

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration recommends good working practice when dealing with Mercury:

- Call the HSC Safety Office at 293-6924 when a spill has occurred.
- Replace old equipment containing mercury such as a thermometer or sphygmomanometer with devices that do not contain mercury.
- Keep a spill kit on hand for spills of 25mL or less. Ensure that there is proper protective equipment available and those who are cleaning the spill are properly trained.
- Dispose Mercury waste in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s 40 CFR 261.24. DO NOT pour it down the drain!
Get to Know a HSC Researcher

Name: Lisa Salati
Department: Biochemistry

Background/Credentials: B.S. – University of Delaware; Ph.D. – University of Minnesota and Postdoctoral training – Case Western Reserve University and University of Iowa

Favorites
Food: Chocolate
Music: I enjoy hearing new work by singer/songwriters
Movie: Rear Window by Alfred Hitchcock
Book: It’s a toss-up between “Don’t Let’s go to the Dogs Tonight” by Alexandra Fuller and “Stellaluna” by Janell Cannon
Travel Destination: Maine

Describe your research in 50 words or less.

My laboratory is interested in the actions of nutrients at the cellular level. We have discovered that nutrients can regulate a process during gene expression called RNA splicing. Most human genes are spliced and 70% of them undergo alternative splicing, which changes the type of protein that is produced. Alternative splicing is important in regulating many physiological activities such as insulin action, atherosclerotic plaque formation, and the development of cancers. By understanding how nutrients can regulate splicing, we will learn new ways in which diet can impact the development of common chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

If you received a five million dollar grant for research, what would your dream research project be?

I am already doing my dream research project; I would just do it faster. We would do more proteomics on splicing complexes and we would use microarray approaches to test our findings in multiple different tissues.

What is one thing that people might be surprised to know about you?

I do needlepoint.

What are some of the safety issues in your laboratory?

Our biggest safety issue is probably trying to keep up with the safety regulations. They seem to keep changing and increasing in number.

What do you like most about working at WVU?

I like the students particularly the graduate students that I have helped to train. It is really exciting to see how they have developed and gone on to their own careers.

What do you like most about West Virginia?

I love the natural beauty of the state. It is a pleasure to travel the state and enjoy your surrounding. Where ever you go you meet the nicest people.

Fisher Scientific Promotes Laboratory Safety at the Health Sciences Center

Equipped with prizes and candy, Heather Bell from Fisher Scientific was here to promote safety around the Health Sciences Center on Thursday, March 13, 2008.

Ms. Bell was accompanied by Dave Abele and targeted laboratories for the safety promotion. Safety products such as safety goggles, gloves, and spill kits were among the items that she displayed on her cart as she visited numerous labs. After the promotional portion of Ms. Bell’s presentation, she offered a chance for laboratory workers to choose an egg for a prize. The eggs contained pieces of paper that displayed a winning item. Ms. Bell gave out prizes that consisted of candy, safety goggles, and gift cards. Faculty, staff and students were able to see and ask questions about safety processes and equipment. The Fisher Scientific safety promotion day proved effective and successful for the laboratories in the Health Science Center.

Fisher Scientific Safety Fair

On Tuesday, May 20, 2008 Fisher Scientific and more than 10 product vendors held a safety fair in the John Hones Conference Center. Health Science employees were able to see the latest safety, health and laboratory products available in the market. Over one hundred employees attended the event.
Safety Talk and Tips

Spill Kits

Spill kits are an important resource to have within a laboratory. The kit provides first response to small chemical spills. Fisher Scientific has provided the HSC with a great offer for laboratory spill kits. It includes:

- Absorbent Pads
- Eye Goggles
- Vermiculite
- Gloves
- Bags

The Fisher Scientific number is: NC 9561585 and the kits are $48.93 each. To order, call (800) 766-7000. (The HSC Safety Office does not endorse or recommend any particular spill kit, but is providing awareness of this offer).

Fume Hood Safety Tips

- Do not store chemicals in fume hoods
- If the fume hood appears to have an air flow issue, please contact the HSC Safety Office to have the airflow tested
- Work as far back in the fume hood as possible and keep the sash down to the appropriate height recommended on the fume hood
- Do not position air conditioners or heaters near the fume hood because they may interfere with the airflow

Single Use Glove Reminder

According to OSHA 1910.1030(d)(3)(ix) Gloves shall be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that the employee may have hand contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin; when performing vascular access procedures except as specified in paragraph (d)(3)(ix)(D); and when handling or touching contaminated items or surfaces.

1910.1030(d)(3)(ix)(A) Disposable (single use) gloves such as surgical or examination gloves, shall be replaced as soon as practical when contaminated or as soon as feasible if they are torn, punctured, or when their ability to function as a barrier is compromised.

1910.1030(d)(3)(ix)(B) Disposable (single use) gloves shall not be washed or decontaminated for re-use.