The WVU HSC complex houses over 300 research laboratories.

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The HSC Safety Office would like to welcome you to the first issue of the HSC Safety Office Newsletter. We hope that you will find this newsletter useful and informative. If you have any suggestions or comments about the quarterly newsletter, please feel free to contact us. Additional information regarding the Safety Office can be found at: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety

Our Mission is to advocate and promote a safe and healthful place to work, learn, visit and receive healthcare by coordinating programs and services in a manner consistent with responsible fiscal and environmental stewardship. Our goal is to protect the Health Sciences Centers resources through guidance and support relating to federal and state regulatory compliance requirements.

Secondary Containment A Cautionary Tale

At approximately 1:50 p.m. one day, the HSC Safety Office received a call regarding a human tissue spill. Upon arrival the HSC Safety Office met with a Research Associate. The associate stated that he was carrying some plastic vials of human cells that were stored in liquid nitrogen from one lab to another. He suspected that the vials became warm, developed vapor pressure and exploded while he was transporting the cells in the hallway. The associate said that the cells had no known pathogens. He had already cleaned up the material and had cleaned the area with lab-grade disinfectant.

In the brief conversation with the research associate, it was evident that the material should have been transported lab to lab with secondary containment. Additionally, he had no laboratory personal protective equipment (PPE). A lab coat, gloves and safety glasses should have been worn when transporting and working with the material.

Please use PPE and secondary containment when transporting hazardous chemicals, biological specimens, or any laboratory item that may pose a threat to personnel within the HSC.

Dept. of Homeland Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Rule

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released an interim final rule that imposes comprehensive federal security regulations for high-risk chemical facilities, which includes universities.

This rule establishes risk-based performance standards for the security of our nation’s chemical facilities. It requires covered chemical facilities to:

- Prepare Security Vulnerability Assessments, which identify facility security vulnerabilities, such as theft, sabotage and terrorism
- Develop and implement Site Security Plans, which include measures that satisfy the identified risk-based performance standards. (From the Department of Homeland Security website http://www.dhs.gov)

Departments that work with chemicals at the HSC are now required to identify “chemicals of interest” designated in the standard. They must submit the name of the chemical and quantity to the HSC Safety Office as required by Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. The HSC Safety Office then determines if the HSC exceeds maximum quantities and follows the established procedures identified by the Department of Homeland Security.
Sharps containers (Figure 3-2) should be RED and must be puncture-resistant and labeled as “sharps waste,” or with a biohazard symbol and the word “biohazard,” or as “regulated sharps,” as specified by OSHA. Sharps containers must be placed in the laboratory near the area of sharps waste generation. For sharps container pick up, call HSC Dispatch at 293-4394. Do not overfill sharps containers.

Handle Broken Glass Effectively

Laboratory glassware which are NOT biohazardous, radioactive, and/or chemically contaminated should be disposed of by packaging it in a lined cardboard box or other rigid container. This policy includes the disposal of the following uncontaminated items:

- Broken glass
- Pasteur pipettes
- Glass slides
- Glass vials

When the box containing the glassware is 80-90% full, seal the box closed and label "Broken Glass." Set the box out for janitorial pickup. Although any rigid container or cardboard box may be used, you can also purchase cardboard boxes made especially for glassware.

Waste Pick-Up

**Hazardous Chemical Waste:**
(example: Hydrochloric Acid, Nitric acid, etc)

- Fill out the Hazardous Materials Disposal form located on EH&S Website (http://fisehs.wvu.edu/haswastdisp.cfm) or the HSC Safety Office Webpage (www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety)—Forms and Instructions
- Fax the form to EH&S at 293-7257 or submit it online

**Biohazardous Waste:**
(example: unfixed tissue)

- Call HSC Dispatch at 293-4394 to request biohazard red bags or boxes
- Call HSC Dispatch to arrange for pick-up when bags/boxes containers are full
- Pick-up usually occurs on Tuesdays and Thursdays
Get to Know a HSC Researcher

Name: Stan Hileman
Department: Physiology & Pharmacology, School of Medicine
Background/Credentials: B.S in 1985 from WVU, M.S. and Ph. D. from Kentucky, and Postdoc at Illinois and Harvard Medical School. Currently an Associate Professor at WVU.

Favorites:
Food: Steak
Music: Bluegrass
Movie: Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Book: Bible and Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
Travel Destination: Any beach that is not crowded.

Describe your research in 50 words or less.
Our goal is to define neural pathways linking nutrition with reproduction. Specifically, the work examines how circulating metabolic signals such as leptin, insulin and IGF-1 may influence neurons that contain Gonadotropin Releasing-Hormone, a hypothalamic neuropeptide that is essential for reproduction, as well as examining potential sex differences in these systems.

If you received a five million dollar grant for research, what would your dream research project be?
Many of the neural systems involved in governing food intake may also serve to link nutrition/growth with puberty onset and subsequent fertility. The vast majority of studies examining how the brain regulates food intake have been performed in male rodents with very little attention paid to the female. Our own studies suggest that female mice may not regulate food intake in the same way as do males. Thus, my dream project would focus on neural mechanisms regulating food intake in the female and how those systems influence reproduction.

What is one thing that people might be surprised to know about you?
I sing in a gospel bluegrass group.

What are some of the safety issues in your laboratory?
Probably the biggest safety issue in our laboratory is radioactivity. We do radioimmunoassays, and used to do radioactive, semi-quantitative PCR. The other significant safety issue is doing phenol extractions for RNA isolations. We also do surgeries for some of our work that involves taking x-rays, so we have to be cognizant of x-irradiation.

What do you like most about working at WVU?
It would probably be the people. I’m fortunate to have as colleagues some very nice people that make working here enjoyable. I also enjoy the sports aspect of WVU as well.

What do you like most about West Virginia?
I grew up in WV, so I enjoy the ability to quickly get out into the mountains and woods. Most of my father’s family is from this area, so it’s great having them close to us.

(MRSA) Methicillin-resistant Staph
In recent months there have been increases in purported cases of MRSA infections. “Staph” are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. Staph bacteria are one of the most common causes of skin infections. Most of these skin infections are minor and can be treated without antibiotics. MRSA is a type of staph that is resistant to some common antibiotics. A new community strain of MRSA commonly affects healthy persons and is not as resistant to antibiotics as those commonly found in health care environments. The community strain is now the most common cause of skin infections and many communities in the U.S., including West Virginia.

Staph bacteria, including MRSA can cause skin infections such as pimples or boils and can be red, swollen, painful, warm or have pus or other drainage. MRSA skin infection may initially be confused with a spider bite. More serious infections may cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections and other deep infections. To prevent MRSA and other skin infections:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Cover draining sores and wounds
- Don’t touch anybody else’s sores or wounds
- Shower and bathe regularly and wear clean clothes
- Do not share towels, washcloths, clothing, hats, razors or other personal items
- Always talk to a doctor before taking antibiotics. If antibiotics are not necessary do not take them. If they are necessary, take them as directed.

Staph and MRSA infections are treatable. Consult your doctor if you suspect a skin infection.

For more information and links to informative sites, go to the WVU HSC Safety Office webpage at: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety
WVU HSC Recycles!

Medical students have developed a Health Sciences Center Recycling Group. The organization collects and sorts aluminum cans, glass and plastic from various locations throughout the HSC. Club members then drive the recyclables to the Monongalia County Recycling Center in Westover.

Students from Health Sciences Center Recycling Group

In return for their good deed, any students who bring in recyclables are rewarded community service credit. All HSC students are required to complete 100 hours of community service before being awarded their degree.

Cassie Waugh, HSC News Service

WVU’s Sustainability Committee

WVU’s Facilities Management has created the West Virginia University Environmental Conservation Awareness Now program - WE CAN. The backbone of this program is WVU’s Sustainability Committee lead by Barbara Angeletti. The committee is composed of different individuals from departments throughout the university, including Kim Bryner from the HSC Safety Office.

The committee hosts meetings once a month. Typically a guest speaker or “field trip” is planned for the members.

In the past, topics such as of “Going Green” within the university, WVU’s biodiesel project, carbon offset projects, environmental management systems, and other topics have been discussed. The committee is also responsible for hosting the Ecolympics, Blue and Gold Mine sale, and recycling throughout campus.

We Can Launch Event

Safety Tip

- Always wear personal protective equipment within the laboratories and when transporting chemicals from one laboratory to the next.

Rechargeable and Cell Phone Battery Recycling

The HSC is recycling old cell phones and rechargeable batteries.

Examples of accepted batteries are: Nickel Metal Hydride, Nickel Cadmium, Lithium Ion, Small Sealed Lead Batteries. These types of batteries are typically found in cell and cordless phones, cordless power tools, laptop computers, PDA’s, two-way radios, etc.

Examples of batteries NOT accepted are: Alkaline, non-rechargeable, wet batteries or automobile batteries.

Boxes are located at the:
- Copy center
- Warehouse
- Facilities Surplus
- HSC Safety Office (G139 HSN)

More information about recycling at HSC can be located at: http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety

Upcoming CHO Training

- Wednesday, April 2, 2008 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. John Jones C
- Tuesday, April 8, 2008 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. John Jones C

Contact the HSC Safety office at (304) 293-6924 or HSCsafetyoffice@hsc.wvu.edu
Please feel free to visit our website at www.hsc.wvu.edu/safety