Lab Safety Update
As of August 24, 2012

Formation of UCOP Laboratory Safety Panel

The UCOP Laboratory Safety Panel was formed to provide centralized reporting structure to monitor and to ensure timely completion of settlement agreement requirements. Additionally, the panel will help provide guidance to better support the campuses in their initiatives to fulfill the settlement requirements and improve laboratory safety. Erike Young, UCOP Director of EH&S will provide regular reports to the panel. The first panel meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2012.

The panel consists of the following individuals:

- Grace Crickette, Risk Services
- Erike Young, Risk Services
- Norm Hamill, OGC
- Ellen Auriti, OGC
- Tony Garvin, OGC
- Lynda Hilliard, Compliance
- Jeff Hall, Research Policy
- Andy Evangelista, Communications

Since the execution of the settlement agreement, the following activities have occurred:

- July 27 - Systemwide stakeholder meeting held at UCOP to review settlement agreement and provide guidance on implementing agreement. Approximately 100 participants that included VCRs, Academic Senate Leadership, Campus Counsel, Compliance, campus lab safety committee chairs, and EHS

- July 30 - UC Lab Safety SharePoint site established, [https://sp.ucop.edu/sites/risk/bmp/ucls/default.aspx](https://sp.ucop.edu/sites/risk/bmp/ucls/default.aspx), to provide central repository for material related to settlement agreement. All UC employees have access to the site to review material. In addition to providing material, the goal is to be transparent in our efforts in what is required of the settlement agreement and the actions that are being taken at both the campus and systemwide levels.

- July 30 – Contract with Vivid Learning Systems finalized to create “UC Fundamentals of Laboratory Safety” course to comply with training requirements of settlement. Course outline developed by the UC Laboratory Safety Workgroup. Course will be available online, as well as course material developed to allow for instructor led training. Development schedule is to have course completed within 60 days. Initial discussions have occurred with the American Chemical Society (ACS) Committee on Chemical Safety to review course and provide validation/certification of course.

- August 3 – Letter from Provost Dorr sent to Executive Vice Chancellors, Vice Chancellors of Research, and EHS Directors, provided clear message of UC’s and Senior Leadership’s commitment to safety. Letter indicated that safety improvements are not going to be limited to laboratories or those departments specified in the settlement agreement. Letter also indicated that the UC Office of Risk Services was taking the lead in coordinating systemwide resources to assist campuses.
• August 13 – EHS Directors agree to weekly Monday meetings to provide progress reports on settlement implementation.
  o Agreement to review the UCLA Lab Safety Manual and Chemical Hygiene Plans as models for campuses approved.
  o Agreement to develop standard SOP format and to host library of approved SOPs on centrally hosted website. For those chemicals listed in Exhibit 1 of the settlement agreement, the Hazard Control Plan portion of the SOPs will be developed by a PhD chemist associated with the American Chemical Society.

• August 15 – UC Policy Advisory Committee meeting reviewed draft systemwide policies on Laboratory Safety Training, Personal Protective Equipment, and Minors in Labs. Policies are being reviewed by the Academic Senate, HR, and OGC.

• August 19 - UCOP EHS Director, Erike Young, attended the American Chemical Society Committee on Chemical Safety meeting to discuss ACS review of UC projects. Both the Division on Chemical Health and Safety and the Committee on Chemical Safety endorsed a proposal to have ACS conduct a peer review of UC’s Laboratory Safety course.

• August 20- The ACS announced at its meeting in Philadelphia the publication of Creating Safety Cultures in Academic Institutions: A Report of the Safety Culture Task Force of the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety. The Office of Risk Services has posted a pdf version to the UC Lab Safety SharePoint site and is making arrangements to have hardcopies of this publication sent to all chemistry/biochemistry department chairs.

• August 20 - Systemwide Laboratory Safety Manager position has been created and filled by Mr. Ken Smith, who was the Research Safety Manager at UCSD and current chair of the systemwide UC Laboratory Safety Workgroup. Ken was also involved in advising legal counsel during settlement negotiations. Ken will provide assistance to campuses to meet settlement requirements, help implement systemwide initiatives, and provide overall project management to ensure that UC meets all settlement agreement requirements.

• August 20- Identified John Palmer, PhD chemist, who works in the UCSD Chemistry Department to review and/or develop required SOPs under the agreement. Dr. Seth Cohen, Chemistry Department Chair at UCSD, has agreed to have Dr. Palmer work on this project with time and materials funding provided by the Office of Risk Services. Dr. Palmer is a an active and respected member of ACS, having served as the Chair of both the Division on Chemical Health and Safety (CHAS) and the Committee on Chemical Safety. Dr. Palmer is an ACS Councilor and has been recognized as an ACS CHAS Fellow. Additionally, Dr. Palmer is currently involved in a project with CHAS to develop a standardized ACS endorsed format and review process for SOPs.

• August 20 – EHS Directors approved expanding UCSD’s Chemical Hazard Use Authorization (CHUA) system to all UC locations. This will allow for web-based approval and documentation of SOPs and PPE usage. UCSD has agreed to provide the software code to the Office of Risk Services Technology Group to allow development of the software to occur at the systemwide level. The goal is to have the CHUA system available by January 2013.
Future activities

- Lab Audit and Inspection system under development by UC EHS Technology Workgroup. Planned implementation is March 2013.

- Lab Safety Management Self-Assessment and Peer Review Program developed and to be implemented within 120 days.

- Ongoing collaboration with the Academic Senate and its committees. EHS Director Young currently has open invitation to present at all future UCFW meetings.

- Webinars are being developed and will be scheduled on the following topics, with all webinars to be recorded and posted on the UC Lab Safety SharePoint site:
  
  - ACS Task Force Report on Improving the Culture of Laboratory Safety in Academic Institutions – Dr. Robert Hill, Chair the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety
  
  - The UC Lab Safety Settlement Agreement: A comparison with existing Cal/OSHA Requirements – Ken Smith, Systemwide Laboratory Safety Manager
  
  - PPE Requirements in the Laboratory: Its more than just a Lab Coat and Glasses – Dr. Nancy Wayne, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Professor of Physiology Advisory Board Chair of the UC Center for Laboratory Safety and Ken Smith, Systemwide Laboratory Safety Manager
  
  - The Chemical Safety Board’s Recommendations for improving Laboratory Safety – Dr. Mary Beth Mulcahy, Senior Investigator for the Chemical Safety Board
  
  - SOP Development, Review and Approval Process: Learning from the University of Texas, Houston – Dr. Bob Emory, Univ. of Texas, Houston