No. 78 SAFETY NEWS FOR UC SAN DIEGO RESEARCHERS FALL 2007

Lab Notes

Safety Award For Excellence Goes To Sheila Kennedy, Chemistry & Biochemistry

Sheila Kennedy, Safety Coordinator for the UCSD Undergraduate Laboratory and an analytical chemistry lab, has steadfastly championed a culture of safety for students and employees. Ms. Kennedy has implemented many safety programs, including lab safety training for undergraduates, ergonomics awareness, and inspection of fire extinguishers, eye washes, and emergency showers. Outside the lab, Ms. Kennedy participates in the Campus Emergency Response Team program (http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cert), benefiting the entire UCSD campus community.

Nominate someone! Tell us who’s making UCSD a SAFE place to work. Use the online nomination form on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safe to nominate an outstanding individual or workgroup.

Controlled Substance News

New Requirement for CS Use in Animals

Controlled substances (CS) used in animals must be listed in Section 17 of Animal Use Protocols. This is required for approval of:

- Controlled Substances Use Authorization (CSUA) applications and renewals
- Requisition orders for CS to be used in animals

Avoid CS Approval Delays

Strict federal rules govern use of controlled substances at UCSD. Expedite your CSUA applications, renewals, and acquisitions by giving special attention to common reasons for processing delays listed below.

- Ensure you submit a complete CSUA application package. Many often are missing the Inventory Form.

Cont. on back ... see Controlled Substance News

New Biological Toxins Policy

UCSD’s Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) now reviews use of biological toxins as part of the Biohazard Use Authorization (BUA). Biological toxins are toxins produced by organisms such as bacteria, fungi, protozoa, plants, fish, mollusks, etc.

Biological toxins must be included in the Biohazard Category section of your BUA. The IBC is aware that many labs have been using these toxins in tissue culture and in animals for many years. If your lab is currently using or plans to work with any biological toxin, use the BUA online application form at http://bua.ucsd.edu to do one of the following:

- Submit a BUA amendment for approval
- Submit a new BUA application if you don’t currently have a BUA

Note: If you have not yet entered your BUA into the new online system, contact Teresa Hull for assistance at (858) 534-5366.

Continued on back...see Biological Toxins

Campus Emergency Exercise on October 16

UCSD will conduct an emergency exercise on Tuesday, October 16 on the Health Sciences campus.


OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Use the Right Extinguisher for the Job

Fire extinguishers are labeled according to the type of fire they are designed to extinguish.

An A-B-C fire extinguisher can be used on all types of fires. UCSD’s fire marshal recommends A-B-C type fire extinguishers for labs. Other types of extinguishers work only on certain types of fires:

- **Class A**: Ordinary combustible materials, such as wood, cloth, paper
- **Class B**: Flammable liquids, such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, grease, oil-based paint, lacquer, flammable gas
- **Class C**: Energized electrical circuits, wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers, machinery, and appliances

Never use a class A extinguisher on a grease or electrical fire.

Continued on back...see Fire Extinguishers
Laboratory Ergonomics: Tips for Microscopy

Microscopy typically involves static and awkward postures of the head, neck, and upper body, along with intense visual concentration. Practice these tips for optimal comfort when you perform microscopy.

- Make frequent postural changes. Plan breaks, using a timer or watch to prompt you when it’s time to give your body a break.
- Position the microscope as close to you as possible, with the eyepiece at eye level.
- Pad work surface edges where your forearms and elbows rest.
- Use television or computer screens for viewing when possible.
- Alternate manipulation of controls between your right hand and left hand. When purchasing new equipment, look for the ability to use both hands for the same function.
- Remove clutter so you can get close or directly in front of the microscope.
- Blink often and focus on an object about 20 feet away every 20 minutes to relax and refresh your eye muscles.

Learn more about configuring your laboratory workstation for comfort and productivity on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergo. Take advantage of Laboratory Ergonomic training through Enrollment Central at http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu.

Biological Toxins ...continued

Biological toxins in animals: When using biological toxins in animals, list them in the Hazardous Agents section of your animal protocol. Current animal protocols that include biological toxins must be amended if the toxins are not listed in the Hazardous Agents section.

See the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee “What You Need to Know” page for help with online animal protocols: http://iauc.ucsd.edu/newusers.aspx.

Biological toxins include those that are categorized as Select Agent toxins as well as those that are not. UCSD is not currently registered with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for Select Agent use. However, principal investigators can obtain exempt amounts of specific Select Agent toxins after approval by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. For more information on Select Agent toxins, including exempt amounts, see the Select Agents List at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/selectagents.

Questions? Contact EH&S Biosafety at ehsbio@ucsd.edu.

Controlled Substance News ...continued

- Have the department chair complete the Department Chair Approval information in Section V, not the applying principal investigator. The department chair must answer “No” to both questions and sign the form. The PI’s signature is not acceptable in Section V.
- Include an Invitro Protocol when CS is used for invitro purposes.
- Make sure CS used in animals is listed in Section 17 of your Animal Use Protocol. This is a new requirement.

Learn how to navigate UCSD’s Controlled Substance Program with ease when you attend a free Controlled Substance class taught by the CS Program Manager. Find schedules and register for training on Enrollment Central at http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu.

Find detailed instructions and forms you’ll need to conduct research with CS on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cs.

Biological Toxins ...continued

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History

Fire Extinguishers ... continued

Proper maintenance is important. Departments must assign an individual to inspect monthly the extinguishers in or adjacent to the department’s facilities. Use the Fire Extinguisher Inspection Checklist on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/firesafety to perform a monthly inspection of your department’s extinguisher(s).

If you notice that an extinguisher needs service or is missing, contact:
- On campus: Facilities Management Service Desk, (858) 534-2930
- At UCSD Medical Center-Hillcrest: Facilities Engineering, (619) 543-6454
- At UCSD Medical Center-Thornton: Facilities Engineering, (858) 657-6400

Fire extinguisher training is available to all employees. If you work with hazardous materials or high-risk fire processes, contact EH&S Fire & Life Safety, (858) 822-7515, to request training for your group.