

## **LABORATORY & RADIATION SAFETY**

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# NEWS

Summer 2003

### **NYSDOH INSPECTS RADIATION PROGRAM ON CAMPUS**

Environmental Health & Safety Radiation Safety Section Staff received high praises from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) when they audited the campus program for the use of radioactive materials on May 20 through 22, 2003.

NYSDOH audits the campus radiation safety program every two years for regulatory compliance. Three State inspectors from the NYSDOH did a walk through of Wilson Lab and Ward Center before going to 26 research labs on campus that use radioactive materials. At the end of their audit they met with representatives of the campus administration and the campus Radiation Safety Committee to present their preliminary findings. Cornell was told that no serious problems were identified and that no violations would be issued. Overall they were very impressed by our program. This was the fourth consecutive inspection without a single violation being issued.

Some areas of interest noted by NYSDOH were:

- Laboratory personnel being well trained and supervised and their ability to answer the interview questions consistently and appropriately.
- Laboratory facilities are well organized and properly labeled.
- Requirements for contamination monitoring, inventory tracking, and security are consistently being met.
- The Radiation Safety Committee is very active in the program and provides effective oversight.
- A good working relationship exists between laboratory personnel and EH&S personnel.
- EH&S radiation safety personnel are capable and dedicated. EH&S provides high quality training, services and compliance monitoring.

As an example of these observations the Health Department described how well a skin contamination event, which happened during their visit, was handled. They emphasized that the laboratory staff knew the appropriate actions to take and did so immediately. They were very pleased with the high level of confidence the laboratory staff had in EH&S and that EH&S was called promptly for assistance.

The EH&S radiation safety staff is very proud of this accomplishment and we give most of the credit to the Radiation Safety Committee, the permit holders, laboratory supervisors and the individual users across the campus. Kudos to all! Keep up the good work!



### **SUPER EAGLE AWARD**



The Laboratory and Radiation Safety section is pleased to announce the introduction of a new positive incentive/recognition program, the Super Eagle Award. To achieve this award the lab group must maintain a spotless record for eight consecutive radioactive materials permit inspections. That translates to four years with no violations or recommended improvements to the lab group's internal management of their regulatory and permitted obligations. Living up to this high standard for such an extended period of time is truly a remarkable accomplishment and requires the participation of everyone within the lab group.

It is our pleasure to announce the first group of Super Eagle Award recipients. You should all be applauded and consider yourselves as very elite members of our community.

**E. Alani**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.  
**S. Beer**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building  
**Biochemistry Class (S. Jones)**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Wing Hall  
**W.R. Butler**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**T. Fox**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.  
**P. Johnson**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**K. Kempfues**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech  
**W. Koeller**, Plant Pathology, Geneva  
**M. Milgroom**, Plant Pathology, Bradfield Hall  
**M. Roberson**, Biomedical Sciences, VMC  
**G. Sharp**, Molecular Medicine, VMC

### **STAFF CHANGES AT EH&S**

You may have noticed some changes in the staff at EH&S during the past year. Skip Poole, in the Laboratory Safety group, whose primary responsibility was inspecting fume hoods, has retired. Harry Dilles, whose primary responsibility was working with the hazardous chemical pickup and disposal program, has also retired.

Tom Shelley has announced that he plans to retire at the end of July. He has served as the Chemical Hygiene Officer, and has been deeply involved in many areas of laboratory and chemical safety for many years. He plans to continue to work part-time as a Laboratory Ventilation Consultant within the Occupational Health & Safety section working with the Lab Energy Use Committee on the Energy Conservation Initiative.

\*\*\* Please share with your graduate students \*\*\*



## RADIATION SAFETY TRAINING

Individuals must receive radiation safety training **prior** to starting work with radioactive materials. This training is required by law. The course is given in two separate presentations; both sessions must be attended. There is a short exam, which can be taken either at the end of the second day, or later at our office during normal business hours. *Prior registration for this course is necessary, as seating is assigned on a first come first served basis.* The next Radiation Safety training programs are scheduled for:

**August 20 & 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

**August 26 & 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**September 8 & 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon**

To register please use the online form available on our EH&S Web site, or call the EH&S main desk, at 58200. For the online form go to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>, select "Training", then select the course under "Class Times & Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.

## ADVANCED RECORD KEEPER TRAINING

This special radiation safety training is held monthly, on the last Friday of every month. It is geared just for those who perform and record the monthly lab meter/wipe test surveys and for those who do monthly reports to reconcile the individual stock vial inventory sheets. The survey class, taught by Chris Bell, is from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., and the inventory class, taught by Marlene Larson, is from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. The next classes are scheduled for Friday, August 29 (register by August 22). **Use our website to register or call Agnes Morris at 5-5600.**

## CHEMICAL SAFETY TRAINING

The next ***new employee*** laboratory worker OSHA Laboratory Standard training program, "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers", will be held in 118 Humphreys Service Building on **Wednesday, August 6, 9 – 11 a.m., followed by the EPA-Chemical Waste Disposal Program from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

Two additional programs "Chemical Safety for Laboratory Workers", have been scheduled specifically for incoming graduate students. These two-hour programs will be held on:

**Wednesday August 27 - 2:00 pm, in 135 Emerson Hall**

**Friday, August 29 - 1:00 pm, in 135 Emerson Hall**

Please contact Czora Pagsoligan by e-mail at [cpp5@cornell.edu](mailto:cpp5@cornell.edu) or by phone at 254-4693 to register, or register online: go to <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu>, select "Training", then select the course under "Class Times & Registration". Please fill in all fields before you submit your registration.

## NEW TRAINING PROGRAM:

### SECURITY OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS USED IN RESEARCH

The information provided in this program will enable you to better understand the importance of and need for reviewing the security status of your laboratory and other research areas. The next program is scheduled for:

**Tuesday, August 19 at 2 p.m. in Vet. Lecture Hall III** at the Veterinary Education Center (near Schurman Hall).



## Radiation Safety Eagle Awards



We are pleased to recognize the following laboratories for receiving radiation safety awards:

### April

**C. Aquadro**, Molec. Biol. & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.  
**M. Hanson**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech Bldg.  
**R. MacIntyre**, Molec. Biol. & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.  
**J. Hua**, Plant Biology, Emerson Hall  
 \* **S. Lazarowitz**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building  
**A. Hay**, Microbiology, Wing Hall  
**J. Russell**, Microbiology, Wing Hall  
**J. Shapleigh**, Microbiology, Wing Hall

### May

**W. Brown**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech.  
**B. Tye**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Biotech.  
**R. Harrison**, Ecology & Evol. Biol., Corson Hall  
**W.R. Butler**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**B. Currie**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**P. Johnson**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**S. Quirk**, Animal Science, Morrison Hall  
**S. Beer**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building  
 \* **A. Collmer**, Plant Pathology, Plant Science Building  
**R. Turgeon**, Plant Biology, Plant Science Building  
**J. Casey**, Microbiology & Immunology, VMC  
**K. Schat**, Microbiology & Immunology, VMC  
**M. Scidmore**, Microbiology & Immunology, VMC

### June

**R. Dieckmann**, Materials Science & Engr., Bard Hall  
**A. Bretscher**, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg  
**J. Roberts**, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.  
**D. Wilson**, Molec. Biology & Genetics, Biotech. Bldg.  
**G. Whittaker**, Microbiology & Immunology, VMC  
 \* **J. Fortune**, Biomedical Sciences, VRT  
**R. Minor**, Biomedical Sciences, VMC  
**Biochemistry Class (S. Jones)**, Molecular Biology & Genetics, Wing Hall

\* Winner of Meal Deal from Pizza Hut