Launch of the Research Compliance website

Dr. Tahmassian, The Associate Vice President-Research Compliance and The office of Environmental Health & Safety are pleased to announce the launch of the Research Compliance website. This launch is a component in the overall upgrade to the web presence of the Office of Research Compliance. The research Compliance website will be Boston University's one stop resource for any research compliance information for the Boston University Charles River and Medical Campuses as well as the Boston Medical Center. The website is a result of a team effort involving input for the Office of Research Compliance, NIS, administration, faculty, and researchers. In an effort to ensure the most up to date information is viewed and to eliminate confusion, older websites have been removed and traffic directed to the new website.

URL for the new site- http://www.bu.edu/research/compliance

The Office of Research Compliance will be working with departments to launch their specific website sections under the new Research Compliance website. We are proud of the final product and hope that you feel the same. As always, we encourage any comments or suggestions you may have.

Rotten-Egg Smell? Just Add Water

If you detect a foul odor – rotten eggs, sour milk, sulfur, etc. – in your workplace the most likely culprit is a dry plumbing trap. Consider that every drain, whether for a sink, shower, toilet, floor drain or other purpose, is in essence a direct line to the sewerage system. Left uncontrolled, sewer gas and odors would be continuously migrating from the sewer back into every location where a drain exists.

The plumbing fixture that's installed to prevent the migration of sewer gas and odors back into occupied spaces is known as a 'P Trap'. Open the cabinet underneath your sink to get a look at one; it's the curved piece of pipe directly below the sink's drain. The P Trap functions by collecting and holding water in the drain line. This water acts as a physical barrier through which sewer gasses and odors cannot pass.

If drains are used infrequently (especially during the dry-air winter months) the water in the trap can evaporate, reopening the pathway to the sewer and allowing the migration of gasses and odors back into occupied spaces. In these instances, water must be added to the drain to refill the trap. Typically 1 liter of water is enough to refill a trap.

Useful Safety Measures to Prevent Herpes B-Virus

The following was taken from the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation Website. This foundation was named after a young woman who virally contracted conjunctivitis from a rhesus monkey while she was just observing its behaviors. This occurred in 1997 and highlights the importance of prevention. At the time of her death, she was a re-

continued (over)
In The Event of a Potential Exposure to Herpes B-Virus

1) Immediately administer (within 5 minutes of injury). Know where your bite kit and eye wash station is located.
2) Skin is scratched with providone iodine solution or chlorhexidine solution for 15 minutes.
3) Flush mucous membranes with water or normal saline for 15 minutes.
4) Bring the B-Virus information packet with you from the First aid station to Occupational Medicine or to the Emergency Department.
5) Report to Occupational Environmental Medicine (OEM), 732 Harrison Avenue (Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm).

Useful Safety Measures to Prevent B-Virus Exposure, cont.

After hours, holidays and weekends report to the emergency department on Albany Street (Menoa Pavilion) and let them know that you have been exposed to a serious disease, and (not hepatitis B). Notify the hospital Central Administrator (CA). The CA is available after 4:00pm, weekends, and holidays; pages: (617) 638-5795 ID #1600 and will help you.
Follow-up care must be provided on the next business day at OEM (617) 638-8100.
6) Exposure to Herpes B-Virus is reportable to the Boston Public Health Commission in 24 hours of exposure by the Occupational Health Officer Contact number is (617)-788-5519.

Committee Corner:

Institutional Biosafety Committee
- If your lab is relocating or if there are changes in lab staff and you have an IBC protocol, then you need to file an amendment with the IBC for changes within an approved project.
- An amendment form can be found at www.bumc.bu.edu/IBC
(Click on “Application and Amendment Process”, Click on “Amendment Form”)
For questions, comments, or concerns contact IBC@bu.edu.

Training Corner

Lab Safety Training:
Questions call OEHS, 638-8830
Keefer Auditorium:
6/12/2008 .............. 2:00 - 3:30 pm
7/08/2007 .............. 9:30 - 11:00 am

Radiation Protection
Basic Safety Training:
Questions call RPO, 638-7052
Evans Basement -019:
5/28/2008 .............. 1:00 - 3:30 pm
6/23/2008 .............. 1:00 - 3:30 pm
7/23/2008 .............. 1:00 - 3:30 pm

Radiation Refresher Training:
Evans Basement -019:
6/18/2008 .............. 2:00 - 3:30 pm
7/16/2008 .............. 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Shipping Biological Training:
Questions call OEHS, 638-8830:
Evans Basement -019:
6/12/2008 .............. 8:30 - 11:15 am
8/12/2008 .............. 8:30 - 11:15 am

search assistant at Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. At Yerkes, she was engaged in behavioral research on hormonal influences in Rhesus macaques. She planned to continue with graduate research in the field of biological sciences.

1. Macaque monkeys should be used only for research when clearly indicated needs are present.
2. All persons who work with macaques or in the necrology of macaques, macaque cages, or who could handle medical implements used with macaques should be properly trained and must be aware of possible B virus exposure.
3. The use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is essential for macaque workers. The veterinarian and safety director should ensure that all workers understand the proper use of gloves, clothing and safety glasses. Arm-length reinforced leather gloves should be used if direct handling is required. Other essential equipment includes long-sleeved protective clothing, surgical masks and goggles and latex or vinyl gloves.
4. Capturing or restraining fully awake macaques by hand is not recommended. Caging should be arranged so that individual macaques can be separated before handling. Cages of macaques that are regularly handled should be squeeze-back cages that permit physical restraint of the macaques prior to handling. When appropriate, chemical restraint by injection should be used prior to removing animals from cages, especially for larger animals and those difficult to handle.
5. Cages and other equipment that may be contaminated with the virus should be free of sharp edges and corners that may cause scratches or wounds to workers. Cages should be designed and arranged so that the risk of workers being exposed by accidental secretion exposure or aggressive contact is minimized.
6. Access to all areas where macaques are maintained and used should be limited to workers who are properly trained in procedures to avoid risk of infection or to persons properly accompanied by trained personnel.
7. Keep research and boarding areas neat, clean, and well organized. Make sure these work areas are equipped with proper soaps, detergents, and saline solutions to immediately cleanse exposures.
8. Information and protocol regarding instructions to follow after an exposure should be conspicuously posted in all macaque work areas. Copies of written exposure protocol and sampling procedures must be available for workers who have possible exposures and who are referred to off-site medical personnel for examination and treatment.
9. In the event of exposure, follow all appropriate precautions. Never underestimate an exposure. Treat every exposure as if B virus exposure is probable, not just possible! For more information regarding B virus exposure and research, go to www.gsu.edu/~wwwvir/index.html.

Submitted by Cheryl S. Barbanel, MD, MBA, MPH, FACOEM