Mount Sinai Medical Center
Environmental Health and Safety
Laboratory Safety Committee notes – July 21st, 2011

• Personal Protective Equipment – Sal Tranchina
  o PPE not being worn in the labs, even by those knowing the policy and requirements
  o Lab Coats are still on order due to a manufacturer backorder – should be in by mid-August
  o Proper footwear has been required as of Sept 22nd, 2010 e-mail from Sal Tranchina and Dr. Morrison (attached below)
  o Sal and Dr. Morrison to meet further on this issue and send out second announcement
  o Discussion points from Meeting:
    ▪ Carrot Vs. Stick (support given for both ideas)
    ▪ Needs to start at the top – PIs
    ▪ Training specific to this topic should include the “Why”

• Children in Labs
  o Children should never be allowed into a Laboratory for their own safety
    ▪ Sal to follow-up with Dr. Morrison to discuss

• Occupational Health & Safety Questionnaire for AALAC Compliance – Phil Hauck
  o Required to be filled out for all Laboratory personnel who work with or may be exposed to animals in the course of their work
  o Online questionnaire on Sinai Central [http://sinaicentral.mssm.edu](http://sinaicentral.mssm.edu)
  o Directions attached

• DEP Audit of Queens – Walter Julias
  o DEP audited the Queens campus in July
  o 2 auditors spent over 2 hours checking chemical handling, storage and inventories as reported during annual filing
  o Reminder – Make sure your inventories are updated:
    ▪ At least annually
    ▪ Any time a new chemical is added to the Lab
  o MSDSs must be available at all times and all personnel must know how to find them
    ▪ Hardcopies
    ▪ [www.msds.com](http://www.msds.com) (username: mssm, password: msds all lowercase)
    ▪ Phone-and-fax service – 1-800-451-8346
• Training Updates
  o Chemical Hygiene Plan training – Now Online!
    ▪ [http://intranet.mountsinai.org/cats/listing/list/1](http://intranet.mountsinai.org/cats/listing/list/1)
    ▪ Scroll down to “Environmental Health and Safety: Chemical Hygiene Plan”
    ▪ Click on the education button and review the material
    ▪ Click on “Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Quiz” and take the test
    ▪ Print your certificate for your records – Keep a copy in the lab (Ctrl-P to print from windows)
  o Hazardous Waste Management Awareness Training
    ▪ Working on a schedule for training sessions (30 minute session)
    ▪ Also working to get this online
  o More Environmental Health and Safety Training to be online soon.

• EnvHS Outreach
  o If your lab needs training please contact EnvHS at [AskEHS@mssm.edu](mailto:AskEHS@mssm.edu)
  o Requests will be scheduled as available
  o Training can include:
    ▪ Hazardous Waste Management
    ▪ Laboratory Self-Assessments
    ▪ Bio-safety
    ▪ OSHA Safety
    ▪ PPE – Hazard Assessments
    ▪ FDNY inspections
    ▪ Many more topics
  o As we work to get all our training online, please let us know what we can help you with now and we work to schedule training sessions with your Lab / Group / Department.
From: Tranchina, Sal  
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 10:55 AM  
Subject: Research Laboratory - Personal Protective Equipment

As indicated during our recent laboratory training sessions, the Mount Sinai Medical Center will be enhancing our requirements for mandatory lab attire and personal protective equipment. These enhancements are intended to improve the safety of our personnel and help to prevent avoidable injuries. MSMC will be enforcing the following requirements for PPE and lab attire using a 2-phase approach.

Phase 1:

- Effective immediately, all laboratory personnel are required to confine hair and loose clothing and to wear close-toed, close-backed shoes.
- Sandals, open-toed or open-backed shoes, “flip-flops”, or shoes with woven uppers or large perforations (i.e., canvas shoes) are prohibited. While personnel may come to work in “non-approved footwear”, they must have approved footwear available and worn while inside labs.
- Safety glasses and other personal protective equipment must be worn as indicated in the lab’s hazard assessments*.
- Shorts and skirts will be permitted provided that a buttoned lab coat is worn over them AND that the buttoned lab coat is of sufficient length to cover the legs when in the seated position.

Phase 2:

- Upon completion of the logistical issues (cleaning / pickups, etc ), lab coats will be required while in the laboratory.
- Lab coats must be closed and buttoned while working at the lab bench.
- Visitors must wear a lab coat, safety glasses, and close-toed shoes.

*PPE hazard assessments may be performed using an EnvHS tool which is available to all departments

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

John H. Morrison  
Dean of Basic Sciences and the Graduate School of Biological Sciences  
Professor Neuroscience  
Professor Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

Salvatore Tranchina  
Senior Director, Environmental Health & Safety