Development and implementation of a researcher oriented chemical-safety support program

J. Palmer, UC/UC San Diego (retired?)
I'd like to start with a cartoon.

It's about a guy who shows a cartoon before giving a boring presentation.

But it doesn't work because the cartoon has no punchline.

Don't start. I'm late for the mandatory coffee safety training.

I'd better run.

I can't tell what's real anymore.
The founders of the University of California San Diego had one criterion for the campus: it must be distinctive. This timeline chronicles the development of UC San Diego from the site of a military training ground and a marine research station to the innovative institution that it is today.
UC San Diego's origins begin at the ocean at the turn of the 20th century with the creation of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, pictured here circa 1931. Hand-tinted photograph by Barber, L.D. Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archive, UC San Diego.
As the city of La Jolla expanded after World War II, local people became more and more concerned over the close proximity of a military rifle range facility in their neighborhood. The La Jolla Town Council began trying to get the United States Navy to close Camp Matthews in 1956 but the Navy resisted. In 1959, Congressman Bob Wilson introduced a bill in Congress that would transfer Camp Matthews to the University of California for the planned San Diego campus.
UC San Diego (UCSD)

- Main Campus began with an idea championed by Roger Revelle
- The first “UCSD College – Revelle” was/is Science Centric
- First Buildings on “upper campus” housed the “Natural Sciences”
  - Chemistry (Urey Hall)
  - Physics (Mayer Hall)
  - Biology (Bonner Hall)

- UC San Diego has 6 Colleges, 35,821 students, 7,689 Grad/Med Students, >1250 faculty on (approx.) 2000 acres…
UC San Diego has Six “Colleges”

- Revelle College
- John Muir College
- Thurgood Marshall College
- Earl Warren College
- Eleanor Roosevelt College
- Sixth College
Some UCSD Colleagues
(I view each as a
“Safety Mensch”)

Prof. Murray Goodman

Prof. Haim Weizman

Douglas Harvey
Chemical Safety Specialist

Chancellor MA Fox

2004
Prof. James K. Whitesell

Marye Anne Fox receives
National Medal of Science
Safety and the Science Research...

• Starting in the mid 1980’s: Safety started to become an overt part of campus

• Prior to 1985: EHS was “very small” – less that 10 “FTEs”
  • EHS was “low-profile”
  • Safety was largely in the hands of the “faculty” and “research community”
    • Support from the administrative side was minimal

• After 1990: Safety & EHS enters the “conscious arena” in campus activities
  “Mid 80’s -- I moved from “Grad-Student” to Safety in an official way”
So – What Happened from 1990 to 2005?

Corporate Criminal Liability Act - “Be A Manager – Go To Jail”
EHS and Administrative Support Grows
Environmental Responsibility “hits” campus
“Students Demand Safety Information Access”
“Match” faculty & staff safety awareness training
How do we empower responsible safety?

1\textsuperscript{st} Hurdle to overcome is how do we cajole the academic research community into realizing that risks are real and that most are avoidable & inappropriate.
What’s happened in the recent past to help empower “safety” in our research community?

- Slow but steady increase in cultural “awareness” of safety as a fundamental in research and education
- EHS seen more as a partner rather than a hindrance to research & teaching
- Safety “dashboards” for PI’s, Safety related statistics for CHO, Administration, Safety “Tools” for researchers
- Tools, resources, and research relevant information
Examples of “Tangibles” for Safety Gains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Statistics</th>
<th>Events Drive Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• EHS provides their data in</td>
<td>• External Audit Helps Uncover Deficiencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hierarchical tiers</td>
<td>• Serious Lab Accidents Raise Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PI</td>
<td>• National “Organizations” Provide Tools/Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dept</td>
<td>• Campus/UC Provides “Tools, Resources”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dean</td>
<td>• Building Designs Help (in some cases)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Vice-Chancellor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Line Resources Drive Up “Access” & Interest

• Safety Training with improved laboratory relevance
• CHUA (Chemical Hazard Use “Application”)
  • CHO, PI, Dept., and “Researcher” all have views of their status
• BUA (Biohazard Use Authorization)
• VIDEOs – practical resources for researchers to understand safety as a fundamental part of their activities in the lab
  • e.g. : SPLASH ZONE, STAY PROTECTED
• UC System: Providing Tools that support EHS, Faculty, Staff/Students
• Students (graduate, post-doctoral, and undergraduate) are sharing best links…
ACS : CHAS, CCS, Leadership/Governance

Our division, committee(s), and leadership are growing the tools and resources that provide real advantages to our members in terms of Safety.

Safety has become an everyday part of our conversations and our profession.

*Thanks you for your attention and participation!*  
*B-Safe!*