Laboratory Safety Teams (LSTs)

- **Researcher-Led**
- **Focus on**
  - Solving Tangible Needs
  - Bringing Groups Together
  - Communication
  - Useful Training
  - Resources

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**Sarah**

Laboratory Safety Teams (LSTs)

- **Researcher-Led**
  - But… *why?*

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**Sarah**
Why is this stuff in MY refrigerator?

Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

Have you ever had to handle disposal of inherited samples or expired legacy chemicals?

• Yes
• No
• Not applicable
A Graduate Student Trying to Resolve Long-Standing Safety Issues on My Own

Working to Solve It All Together With LSTs!

Succession Planning

- **User training system:** ✓
- **Lab manager training system:** ❓
  - Documentation
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Training
  - Overlap
- **Best intentions ≠ results**
Chemical Inventory

- How to keep track of hazards in each lab?
- Collaborative multidisciplinary research spaces
  - Unique challenges
- Policies vs. Practicality

**Audience Survey Question**

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

Have you ever had to work with a poorly-maintained or non-existent chemical inventory system?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable
Connecting Student Safety Enthusiasts

- **Common problems:** Lack of communication & human error
- How to make it easy to do what you’re supposed to do?
- Involvement in safety groups

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Turns Out, Reality is Not So Clean

*As an outsider, my expectations were miscalibrated*

[Image of laboratory scenes with students and professors]
Time Spent Digging for Equipment

Do we have what I need to start this new project?

Utter chaos → to →

Time Spent Searching for Chemicals

Do we have what I need to start this new project?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance Name</th>
<th>CAS No.</th>
<th>Hazards</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Shelf Location</th>
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<td>6356-42-2</td>
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<td>E247</td>
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<tr>
<td>*1,2,4,5-Hexachlorobenzene</td>
<td>212-74-3</td>
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<td>2-mercaptobenzothiazole</td>
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<td>Capric acid (hexanoic acid)</td>
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Time Spent Tracking Figuring Out Unknown Messes

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<th>Whose mess is this?</th>
<th>How long has this hotplate been on?</th>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image1.jpg" alt="Image of a cluttered lab bench" /></td>
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Does anyone know what’s in this unlabeled vial?

Sarah

Why I Co-Founded My LST

But it didn’t last...

[Version history]

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Audience Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

How often have you encountered a disruptive equipment mess or chemical contamination that was produced by previous occupants of your lab space?

- Too many times
- A few times
- Never
- Not applicable

Why I Co-Founded My LST

It's actually in all of our best interests to solve this problem.

Address the salience

DON'T MISS THE FOREST FOR THE TREES
Alone and Confused when it comes to lab safety?

Safety professionals as allies

Monica

Audio Survey Question

ANSWER THE QUESTION ON BLUE SCREEN IN ONE MOMENT

Have you ever contacted safety professionals for help with specific questions about research safety or hazardous waste issues in your lab?

- Yes, they were helpful
- Yes, they were NOT helpful
- No, I haven’t needed them
- No, I don’t know anyone I can contact
- Not applicable
Safety-related Team Conversations with Peers

Safety Networks
Research Productivity and Housekeeping Challenges

Graduate and Postdoctoral Led Laboratory Safety Teams

Safety Professionals and Faculty Champions
The workshop started at an ACS National Meeting in 2018...and the rest is history!

2021 CHAS Graduate Student Safety Leadership Award

Recognizing graduate student researcher or recent graduate who demonstrates outstanding leadership in the area of chemical health & safety in their laboratory or department.

Jessica DeYoung, University of Iowa
Omar Leon Ruiz, University of California, Los Angeles
Sarah Zinn, University of Chicago
Cristian Aviles-Martin, University of Connecticut

In recognition of these students’ collective and individual contributions to the workshop “Empowering Academic Researchers to Strengthen Safety Culture” supported by the ACS Division of Chemical Health and Safety and for their role in developing and strengthening Laboratory Safety Teams (LSTs) at their respective institutions.
Enhancing Research Productivity
Through Student-Led Laboratory Safety Teams

FREE Webinar | TODAY at 2pm ET
Empowering Academic Researchers to Strengthen Safety Culture

Sunday, March 20, 2021 from 2PM – 6PM EDT.
The workshop is $25 per participant.

Workshop goals are to:

- Educate participants about the value of risk assessment
- Guide participants towards gaining awareness of safety culture messages from the leadership at their institutions
- Empower participants to expand their safety networks and develop laboratory safety teams.

This 4-hour workshop is primarily directed at frontline researchers in academic institutions: graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and undergraduate students. Faculty and safety staff are also very much encouraged to participate.

https://dchas.org

www.acs.org/acswebinars