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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Mapping the variability in lab safety
representative positions*

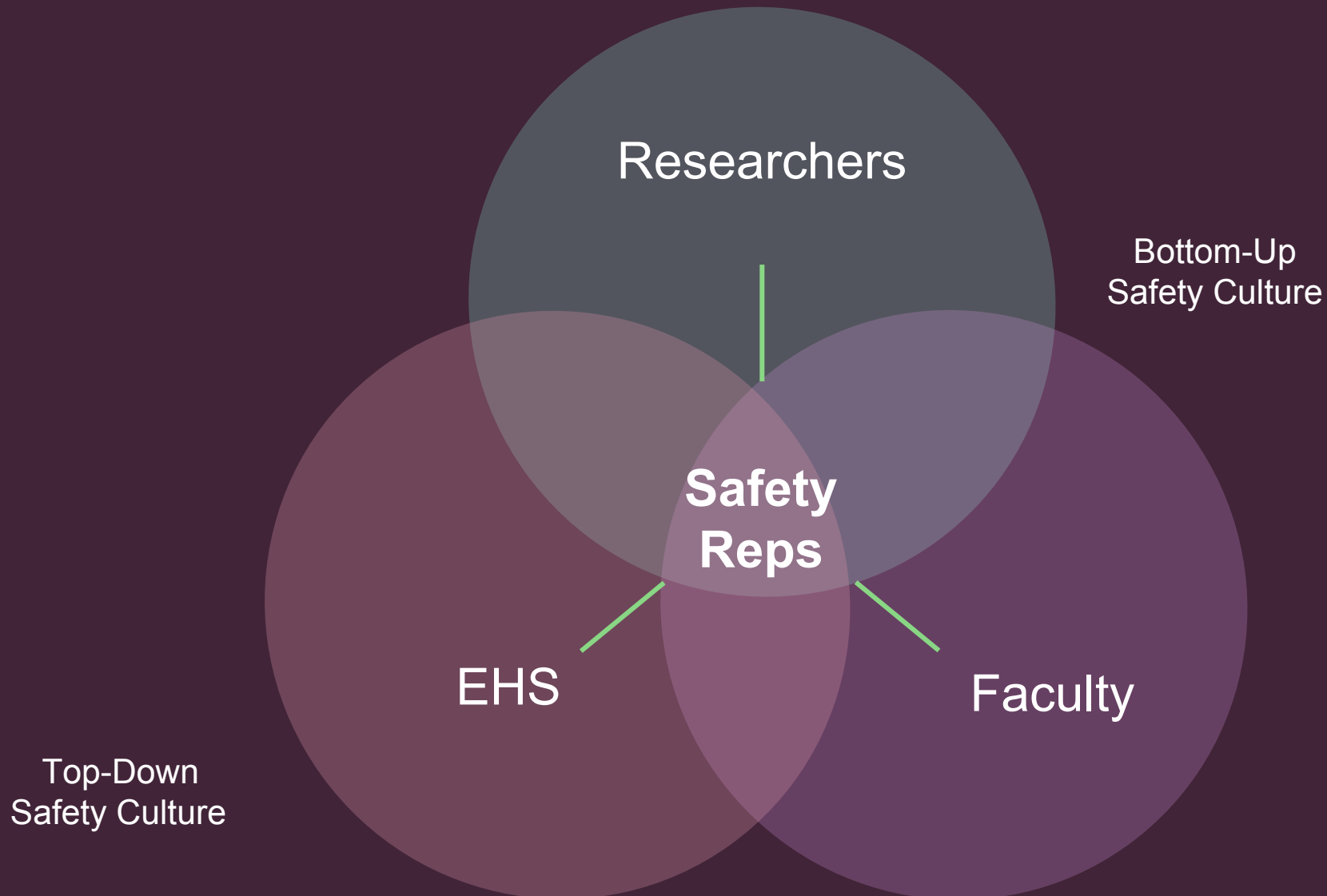


WHAT'S IN A NAME?

THE ABILITY TO **COMMUNICATE**...

THE ABILITY TO **BUILD**...

WHAT ARE LAB SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES?



A rose by any other name...

Lab Safety Contacts (LSCs)

Safety Designates

Lab Safety Coordinators (LSCs)

Lab Safety Officers (LSOs)

Lab Safety Liaison

and more...

WHAT ARE LAB SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES?

At some universities, graduate students and/or post-doctoral scholars serve as safety liaisons for their research groups. The responsibilities and scope of these positions are different from place to place, but often they involve being a point-of-contact between the lab and safety professionals (e.g. Environmental Health and Safety). Sometimes, these positions also involve the management of waste accumulation and disposal, PPE stores, training record maintenance, purchasing, and more.

“When I first started being an LSC, honestly, I had no idea what the position even was...”

-UCLA Lab Safety Coordinator

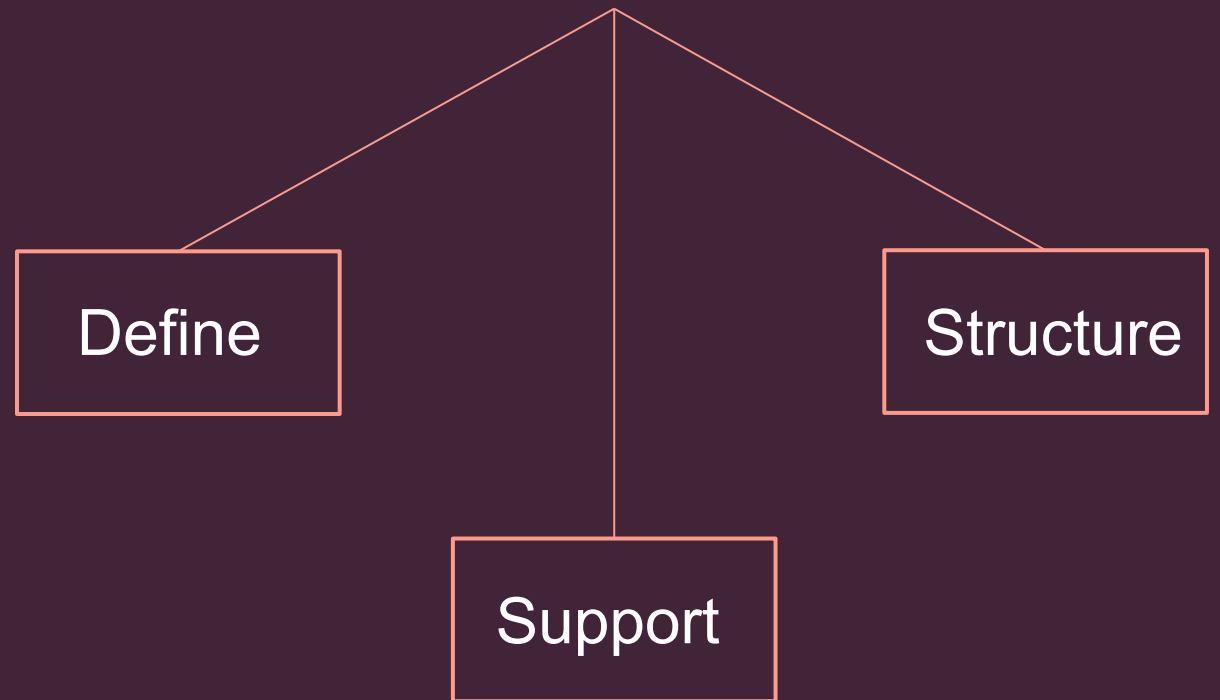
“I’ve been an LSC for 5 years... but I haven’t actually heard the term ‘LSC’ before.”

-UCLA Lab Safety Coordinator

BUT A NAME ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH



The name is a good **start**



STEP 1: MEET THE COMMUNITY

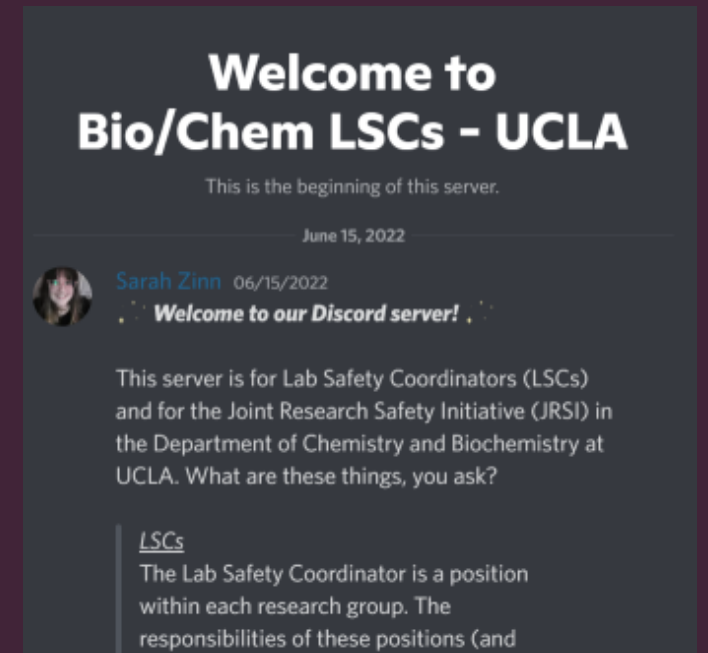
Focus
Groups and
Interviews



Laboratory
Safety Team



Social Spaces



WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?

If I see something that's wrong, I
can ask for it to be fixed

Most of the time I feel **respected**

I've implemented a lot of **new
programs** in my group

I can do everything [that's
asked of me]



I can only **nag** so many times

It's all just **pointless**

**Why am I putting so much
time and energy** into being an
LSC?

I feel like my main job is
getting on people about stuff

STEP 2: MAP VARIABILITY

Interviews



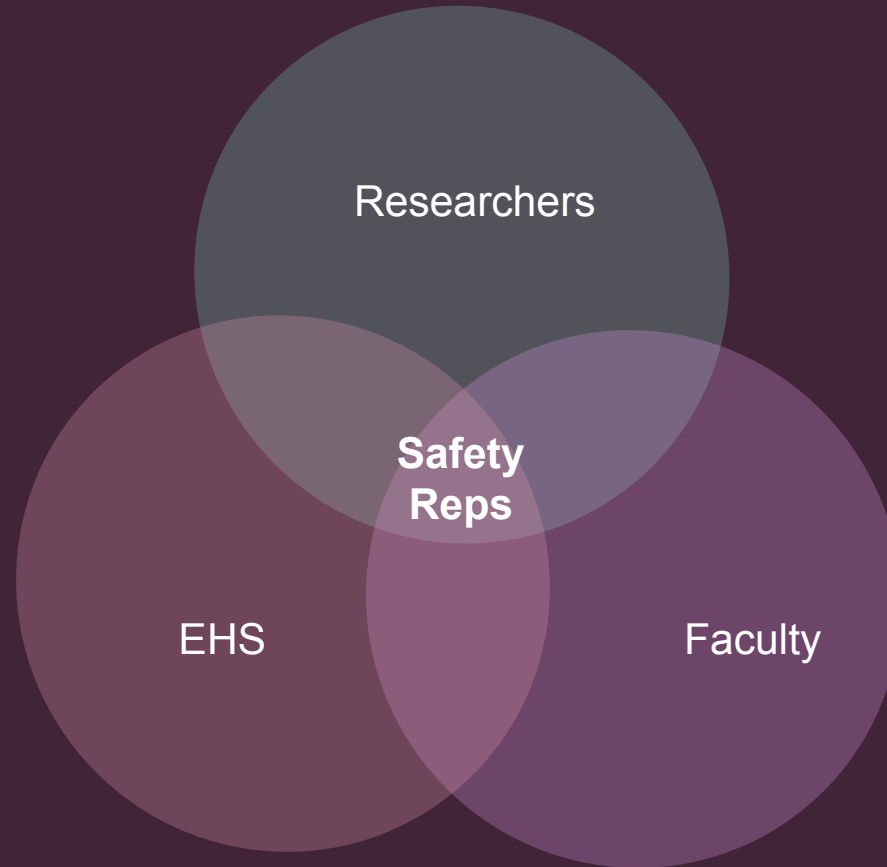
Surveys



Scales



WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?



WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?

- Training
- Resource Accessibility
- Role Formalization
- Guidance Documents
- Communication



WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?



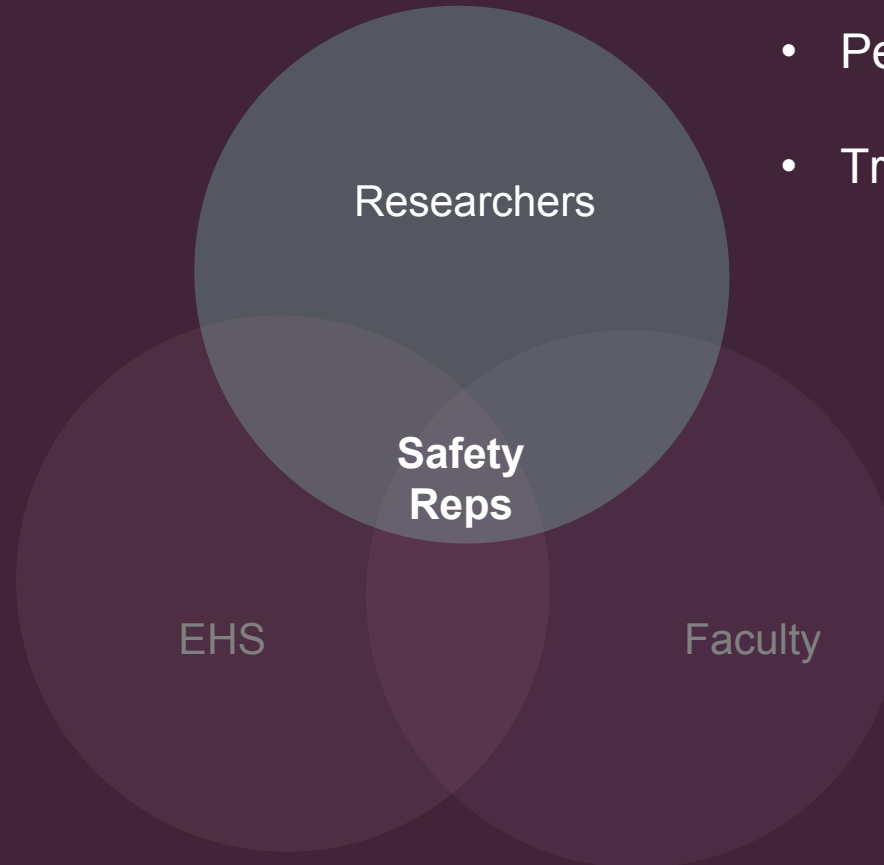
- Training
- Resource Accessibility
- Role Formalization
- Guidance Documents
- Communication

- Onboarding / offboarding
- Authority and jurisdiction
- Selection criteria
- Attitude
- Practice

WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?

- Peer-to-peer communication
- Mutual respect

- Responsibility sharing
- Perceived role hierarchy
- Trust



- Training
- Resource Accessibility
- Role Formalization
- Guidance Documents
- Communication

- Onboarding / offboarding
- Authority and jurisdiction
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- Attitude
- Practice

STEP 3: ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Formalized Role Description
- PI Guidance Document
- Training Resources
- Centralized Resource Repository
- Continuing Community Engagement



...RINSE AND REPEAT...



THANK YOU!

Imke Schroeder

Craig Merlic

UCLA LSCs

UCLA EH&S

UCLA JRSI



Center for Laboratory Safety

Lab Safety Team Network