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…

Bottom-Up Safety Culture

Researchers

Safety Reps

EHS

Faculty

Top-Down Safety Culture
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

Define
Support
Structure
STEP 1: MEET THE COMMUNITY

Focus
Groups and Interviews

Laboratory
Safety Team

Social Spaces

Welcome to Bio/Chem LSCs - UCLA

This is the beginning of this server.

June 15, 2022

Sarah Zhao 06/15/2022

Welcome to our Discord server!

This server is for Lab Safety Coordinators (LSCs) and for the Joint Research Safety Initiative (JRSI) in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCLA. What are these things, you ask?

LSCs
The Lab Safety Coordinator is a position within each research group. The responsibilities of these positions (and
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?
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- Training
- Resource Accessibility
- Role Formalization
- Guidance Documents
- Communication
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- Training
- Resource Accessibility
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- Communication

- Onboarding / offboarding
- Authority and jurisdiction
- Selection criteria
- Attitude
- Practice
WHAT FACTORS INFLUENCE LSC EXPERIENCES?

- Peer-to-peer communication
  - Mutual respect
- Training
- Resource Accessibility
- Role Formalization
- Guidance Documents
- Communication

- Responsibility sharing
- Perceived role hierarchy
  - Trust
- Onboarding / offboarding
- Authority and jurisdiction
- Selection criteria
- 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