



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the members of EH&S, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Lab Safety Awareness Week in February. In collaboration with CSHEMA, EH&S organized several events across campus to enhance and promote safety. I also want to congratulate all the winners of the 'Lab Safety Challenge'.

In January, EPA/FDEP conducted their annual inspection and visited several labs on campus to ensure compliance with hazardous waste disposal regulatory requirements. Thanks to all the labs involved for being excellent safety ambassadors and keeping their labs in compliance with all aspects of EPA/FDEP and UF regulations. In addition, we want to congratulate our first three Green Lab Certification recipients.

I would like to encourage everyone to update their emergency call list on lab notice boards and ensure training compliance with the new Chemical Hygiene training launched late last year. Please review more information below for safety training updates, Gator TRACS integration with the UF directory, the new training and vaccination form, the greenhouse safety program, the new EH&S form portal, information concerning minors in the research lab, and new EH&S staff members.

As always, we are committed to supporting a safe working environment for our community and fostering a culture of safety. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns and recommendations. Many thanks for all your support in keeping the UF community safe.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh



LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK WINNERS

During the week of Feb 12-16, EH&S, in collaboration with CSHEMA, celebrated Lab Safety Awareness Week. These events were an initiative to recognize the successes of laboratory health and safety programs and provide additional ways to promote safety to campus faculty, staff, and students. During this year's celebration, we hosted 11 Meet and Greets throughout campus. We also encouraged research labs to participate in the "lab safety challenge" by reviewing specific actions in the lab to promote safety. Congratulations to the winners of the lab safety challenge:

- Fifield- **Dr. Liu's Group**
- ICBR – **Dr. Sampson's Group**
- Microbiology and Cell Science- **Dr. Maupin's Group**
- Engineering-**Dr. Neitzel's Group**

We extend our gratitude to all those who took part in and showed their support for this event.

Lab Safety Awareness Week
February 12-16, 2024

Celebrate Lab Safety Week! Participate in the activities and email your submissions to:
labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu

Submission Deadline:
Friday, Feb 16

Meet the Lab Safety Team
(take and email a picture with us)
Visit us at one of our tables around campus.
Check our website for dates and locations.

Lab Safety Challenge *(email with the lab info)*
Check all the boxes below:

- Notice boards are accurate for all hazards in the lab.
- Chemicals are stored correctly: Acids are separate from bases. Flammables are separate from acids and oxidizers. Inorganic acids are separate from organics acids.
- All chemicals, conical tubes, and flasks are clearly labeled.
- First aid and chemical spill kits are fully stocked.
- Compressed gases are capped and secured.

Unwanted Chemical Cleanout Challenge *(email with the confirmation)*
Review unwanted/old chemicals in your lab and schedule a hazardous chemical waste pick-up.

Enhance Your Lab Safety Knowledge *(email with attendance record)*
Review the Safety Awareness Week flyers about lab and chemical safety with your lab staff.

Email Us an Idea to Promote Lab Safety

UF Environmental Health and Safety
CSHEMA

GREEN LAB CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to following recipients:

Green Tier - Green Laboratory Certification

Dr. Steeve Boulant (Associate Professor)
Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, College of Medicine.

Dr. Megan Stanifer (Assistant Professor)
Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, College of Medicine.

Gold Tier – Green Laboratory Certification

Dr. Paola Giusti-Rodriguez (Assistant Professor)
Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine.



The UF Green Lab Certification Rubric addresses sustainable behaviors, conservation efforts, and environmentally friendly infrastructure applicable to laboratory settings. Through EH&S evaluation of a weighted rubric, labs can achieve graded levels of green lab certification:

- Green: Awarded to labs that achieve $\geq 90\%$ lab assessment scores

- Gold: Awarded to labs that achieve $\geq 80\%$ lab assessment scores
- Silver: Awarded to labs that achieve $\geq 70\%$ lab assessment scores

GREEN LAB PROGRAM

GATOR TRACS AND UF DIRECTORY INTEGRATION

Gator TRACS is now integrated with the UF directory. This means that personal information such as names, emails, and UFID numbers will automatically populate from UF's directory database. Please note that users may no longer update their own personal information in Gator TRACS. If you need to update your personal information, please navigate to MyUFL, and follow the instructions for updating UF directory information.

UPDATING UF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Specific fields located in your Directory Profile will display on your **Outlook Contact Card** or in the **Address Book**. It is the responsibility of the staff member to update this information.

To update your directory information go to:
my.ufl.edu > **Main Menu** > **My Account** > **Update My Directory Profile**
or go to <https://one.ufl.edu/directory/profile/>

NAME

Name	Login Name	Albert Gator
	Display Name	Albert Gator
	Directory Name	Albert Gator

EMAIL

Email	Personal Email	albert.gator@gmail.com
	Business Email	agator@uflsa.ufl.edu

Display Name - Used on contact card & address book
Directory Name - Used in UF Directory

Business Email - This should be your [@uflsa.ufl.edu](mailto:agator@uflsa.ufl.edu). Your email should be first initial and last name, so for Albert Gator it would be agator@uflsa.ufl.edu.

UF DIRECTORY INFO

EPA/FDEP ANNUAL INSPECTION

In January, the University received its annual EPA/FDEP inspection focusing on compliance with hazardous waste disposal regulatory requirements. The inspectors visited several labs on campus and asked lab personnel about their hazardous waste disposal practices. EH&S would like to commend the following labs and individuals for their hard work, diligence, and compliance with all aspects of our institution's hazardous waste disposal requirements:

Dr. Julie Moore's Laboratory in VAB - **Brittany Russ**
Dr. Zeng's Laboratory in Sisler Hall - **Joshua Gibson**

Thank you to all involved for being excellent ambassadors for the University of Florida.

NEW TRAINING AND VACCINATION FORM

EH&S has recently introduced a new Training and Vaccination form (T&V). This form provides

Training & Vaccination Status Form

Complete this form as part of your participation in the University of Florida's (UF) bloodborne pathogen (BBP) program. Contact accemed@ehs.ufl.edu with questions.

Personal Information

Person
 Search by Last Name, First Name or UFID
Please be patient as options populate

Phone Number Email
Organization/area

Department Position

Training Completion Status

Annual training regarding the risks of working with human blood or other potentially infectious materials as outlined in UF's BBP Program is required. Acknowledge that this training is required annually but completion of this form is required only once.

Completed Online
 Completed in-person
 In Progress

Hepatitis B Vaccination Status

Accept vaccination series
 Decline due to prior completion of series
 Decline without prior completion of series

[T & V FORM](#)

eligible employees access to the Hepatitis B vaccine at **no cost to the employee** and is offered at the Occupational Health Clinic on campus. Eligible employees must work in environments with potential contact to human blood or other potentially infectious materials as described by their job duties.

Completion of the T&V form is necessary only once and can be accessed via the online BBP Training courses. While annual BBP training is mandatory, employees need only complete the form once.

EH&S is continually working towards streamlining the entire BBP program. Stay tuned for additional information.

CHEMICAL HYGIENE PLAN TRAINING

Friendly reminder that the Chemical Hygiene Plan (EHS869) training, published in October 2023, must be completed no later than **March 31, 2024**.

This one-time training is **required** for all laboratory users handling chemicals and their supervisors as dictated by UF policy and OSHA regulations. To schedule an in-person training for groups of 10 or more, please contact EH&S at labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu.



UF Chemical Hygiene Training

[START COURSE](#)



[MYTRAINING](#)

REMINDER - UPDATE NOTICE BOARD EMERGENCY INFORMATION

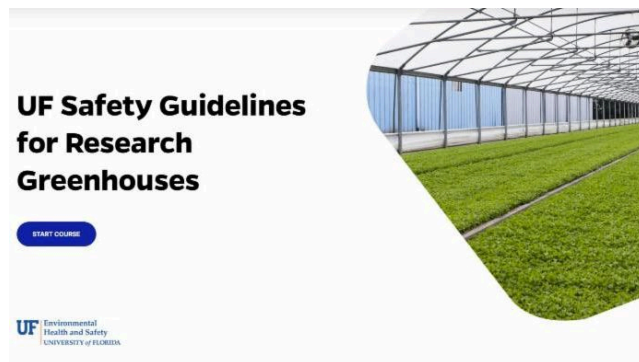
The *Emergency Call List* is found on the *Notice Boards* on lab doors and identifies the individuals to contact in case of an emergency. The call list must include the after-hours numbers of at least two individuals who can provide information about the lab to the University Police Department (UPD), EH&S, or other emergency responders. This must be reviewed and updated annually, as needed. If you do not wish to have private phone numbers posted on the notice board, you may complete, and submit a privacy form.

[NOTICE BOARD INFO](#)



NEW GREENHOUSE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Greenhouse Safety Program is a new safety program developed by Lab Safety in collaboration with researchers and staff. The main goal is to mitigate risks associated with common hazards (chemical, physical, ergonomic, etc.) found in greenhouses and other similar structures, as well as provide guidance in case of emergency. The components of the Greenhouse Program include website resources, a training course, the *Greenhouse Safety Manual*, and greenhouse surveys.



The launch of the program is expected to be in mid-April 2024.

[GREENHOUSE SAFETY PROGRAM](#)

NEW EH&S PORTAL



EH&S has launched a new portal to submit and view electronic forms. The first forms housed on this new portal include the Equipment Decontamination Form, the AED Inspection, and the BBP Training & Vaccination Form. The benefits of this new system include better integration with existing UF systems/databases and a centralized location to view and manage your submissions. Please keep an eye out as we update and migrate additional forms to the new system including the Lab Closeout Form and the Injury/Incident Reporting Form.

[EH&S PORTAL](#)

REMINDER ABOUT MINORS IN RESEARCH

Environmental Health & Safety
Research Services
researchsafety@ehs.ufl.edu
phone: (352)-392-1591
fax: (352)-392-3647

MINORS IN RESEARCH CHECKLIST

Welcome to EH&S's Minor's Registration process! As an institution, we are excited to host teens interested in research and hope to inspire the next generation to follow a STEM career. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure the health & safety of all personnel on the University of Florida campuses. The following checklists highlight the pre and post approval requirements for safely hosting a minor in research at UF.

If you are a Principal Investigator who is planning to host a minor in research this summer, please review the [Minors in Research Labs Checklist](#) and be aware that all the requirements **MUST** be met prior to allowing a minor to enter the research space.

[MINORS IN LAB CHECKLIST](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Asha Rani
Research Regulatory Analyst II (Animal Safety)
Radiation Safety & Radiological Services

EH&S is turning the spotlight on Asha Rani, our new EH&S Research Regulatory Analyst II. Asha comes to EH&S with over 23 years of experience in basic research at the University of Florida. She earned her master's degree from the University of Lucknow, India. She serves as a liaison between Lab Safety, Biosafety, EH&S, IACUC, and ACS staff. In her new role, she will manage, oversee, and conduct the review of IACUC protocol submissions, amendments, and renewals for completeness and accuracy regarding health and safety compliance including biosafety, radiation safety, and chemical safety.

[CONTACT](#)

Aside from work, Asha enjoys cooking and gardening. In her leisure time, she also enjoys painting, embroidery, and knitting.



Laurence Prunetti
Biosafety Coordinator I
Research Services and Safety

EH&S is pleased to announce the addition of Laurence Prunetti to the Biosafety Office team! In her new capacity, she will be responsible for evaluating the registration of biohazard projects and conducting surveys of laboratories across the UF campus. With 12 years of experience managing intricate R&D initiatives, particularly in gene therapy and microbiology research, Laurence brings a wealth of expertise to her role.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Laurence takes delight in discovering the wonders of the Sunshine State through activities like kayaking and other outdoor pursuits.

[CONTACT](#)



Jennifer Jackson
Research Regulatory Analyst I (Animal Safety)
Research Services and Safety

EH&S extends a warm welcome to Jennifer Jackson, our new EH&S Research Regulatory Analyst I. As a Research Regulatory Analyst I, Jennifer reviews IACUC protocols for chemical and biological safety concerns in animal research. She obtained her Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering and B.S. in Chemical Engineering here at the University of Florida.

Outside of work, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her three cats, reading, crocheting, and playing D&D with her friends.

[CONTACT](#)

New Hires

- Laura Castillo – *EH&S Coordinator I*
- Gregory Banks- *Insurance & Risk Specialist*
- Savannah Hardiman – *Biosafety Coordinator I*
- Jason Clements – *Bio Containment Coordinator*
- Christian Hollinshead – *Building Code Inspector I*
- Shreya Reddy Palla – *OPS Occupational Medicine Assistant*

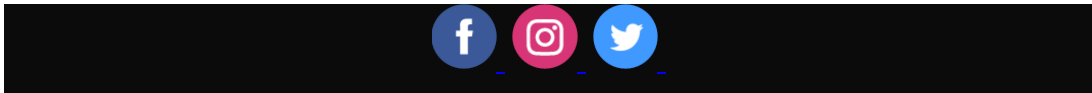
Promotions

Nicholas Cavallaro -
EH&S Coordinator II

Retirements

Anne Murray
Thank you for your many years of service!

Follow Us on social media and help promote #UFSafetyCulture



EHS.UFL.EDU

UF Environmental Health & Safety | 916 Newell Drive, PO Box 112190, Gainesville, FL 32611-2190