Safety Department Report – **September – December 2020**

**Biological News**

**Our COVID-19 guidance can be found** [**here**](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/laboratory-safety/biological-safety/covid-19-guidance/)**. This is updated regularly as more information becomes available. This includes risk assessment forms, checklists, and the contact tracing protocol.**

**Audits and Inspection News**

**Update on our work through the COVID-19 period**

The rainy day has arrived and so the Audit Team are spending it undertaking a thorough review of the Safety Department’s web pages and the Legal Register, to identify dead and out of date web links, gaps in information, and to prioritise reviews of key documents.

Updated documents include [Workplace temperature](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/safety/internal/welfare/WORKPLACE-TEMP-GUIDANCE-NOTE-GN030.pdf), [Statutory Testing requirements](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/safety/internal/testing-and-inspection/College-testing-and-inspection-requirements---July-2020-review-09-07-20.pdf), [Office areas’ COP](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/office-safety/), [Departmental H&S Committees’ Agenda](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/safety-management/health-and-safety-management-system/structure-and-responsibilities/safety-management-responsibilities/), Day One and [Contractors’](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/administration-and-support-services/safety/internal/forms/day-one-induction/CONTRACTOR-INDUCTION-WITH-COVID-19.pdf) induction which both now include COVID-19 information; and some of the web structure has also been amended.

We are also reviewing the pages and type of information that requires a log-on as this can be a barrier to those wishing to engage with our web pages. Please let us have your views on this by emailing [d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk).

**Radiation News**

**Laser Pointer Safety Poster**

A poster campaign is currently in progress to highlight the potential hazards associated with non-compliant laser pointers. Posters will be displayed in teaching spaces and on safety notice boards and will be circulated via Departmental Operations Managers. The posters point to the detailed safety guidance available on the Safety Department’s [Laser Pointer Safety Webpage](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/safety/safety-by-topic/laboratory-safety/laser-safety/laser-pointer-safety/), where further posters can be downloaded for local printing in A3 format.

**Radiation Protection Supervisor Training**

To allow the completion of statutory training for Radiation Protection Supervisors during the current Covid-19 restrictions, training is now being offered via MS Teams. The first MS Teams RPS training course was provided on the 25th of August for new and existing RPSs and was well received.  Further training requests should be made via the [LDC website](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/staff-development/safety-training/safety-courses-/radiation-protection-supervisor-training/) or by contacting a member of the Radiation Protection Team.

**Other Safety News**

**Hazardous Substances**

Hazardous substances workshops / Q+A sessions are available on Microsoft teams, for anyone wanting some help with risk assessments for activities involving chemicals and/or gases. These sessions will be based entirely around the activity you are undertaking and will cover all aspects of safety associated with the process, where to find relevant information, and how to interpret it. To arrange, please contact [e.hartrick@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:e.hartrick@imperial.ac.uk).

**College Safety Forum**

**December 2020**

With the current situation at the College, the next College Safety Forum on 14 December will be held online via Teams Events. We are pulling together speakers and a programme, and will publish this on our website as soon as possible. Let [d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:d.hickey@imperial.ac.uk) know if you want to be sent an invite for that Event, and do not currently receive notification of these. Everyone else will be sent a placeholder invite shortly via Outlook, and you can confirm your attendance through that in due course.

**Safety Department News**

**Biological Safety Officer**

Heather Combe has been appointed as Biological Safety Officer in the Safety Department, to replace Ian Hackford, who left for Glasgow School of Art earlier this year. Heather is joining us from the Faculty of Medicine, in November.

**Alison Church**

Alison has left Imperial College after nearly 20 years' service, spread across three separate work periods. She has left her role here as Safety Adviser and joining the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Alison has been a popular person across all her career here, and across many departments and campuses. She takes with her not only her extensive knowledge of safety, but also her eclectic record collection, and of course, Barry Manilow poster. It was again unfortunate that the current situation meant we had to “virtually” share a drink and some stories, but we hope that some semblance of normality returns to allow us to meet again in person soon!

**Julia Cotton**

Julia is currently planning her future as she takes retirement from Imperial College! Her career stretches back 20 years, and the multiple boxes full of paperwork we sorted through during the recent Sherfield Building 4th Floor reorganisation don’t even scratch the surface of the impact she has had on the development of effective safety processes here. We wish her the best of luck in whatever she goes on to do, and know that she will be equally as influential in her future life.

**Marian Blokpoel**

Marian is also sadly leaving the Safety Department, after a 25 year career here. She started as a Masters student in 1995, at what was then known as St Mary’s Medical School! After gaining her PhD in the Millenium, she worked in FoNS and Medicine, before joining the Safety Department in 2010 as Biological Safety Officer. In the past decade she has been involved in a huge range of Health and Safety topics, driving her main passion of enabling cutting edge science, so her considerable experience is going to be put to that exact use at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.