

The LSU logo is displayed in a large, bold, black font.

Office of  
**Research &  
Economic Development**

**Fall 2013**

**Environmental  
Health & Safety**

A nighttime photograph of a campus scene with trees and buildings illuminated by streetlights.

# NEWSLETTER

## LSU Research Safety Committee

### Research Safety Committee Members

*Vincent L Wilson*

*Philip H Elzer*

*Kalliat T Valsaraj*

*Michael Hooks*

*Diana Coulon*

*Wei-Hsung Wang*

*Brian T Nichols*

*Gregory V Hayes*

*Kenneth R Bondioli*  
*(interim for Gregg Pettis)*

*Ryan R Greer*

*John C Borne*

*Debra L Keppler*

*Jason P Lejeune*

*Mike Durham*

*Sharon M Bezdek*  
*(secretary)*

Safety and environmental compliance in university research has taken on greater importance in our nation, as the risks associated with cutting edge research grow. The federal government has taken on new roles through numerous agencies in regulating and monitoring research activities in the interest of national security, as well as safety of our food supply, and the inherent risk of unexpected and unwanted results of such research. Beyond the primary need to protect our researchers, in the world economy of today, such concerns as mad cow disease, flu epidemics, and laboratory acquired infections pose risks to not only the university's status as a top tier public academic and research institution, but to the economy of the state and of the nation.

An initiative toward maintaining safety and environmental compliance at LSU was set in place in 2012 by Dr. Tom Klei, Interim Vice Chancellor, Research & Economic Development at the time, and Dr. John Russin, Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. The Research Safety Committee is currently chaired by Mike Durham, Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), and is composed of representatives from: EHS and Radiation Safety, the Chairs of key safety committees on campus, Sponsored Programs, Administrative Services and Risk Management, and the research departments of LSU and the Ag Center. The committee is charged with providing guidance and direction to LSU administration on issues relating to safety and environmental compliance in research. The inaugural meeting of the new committee was held on May 8, 2012. The committee meets quarterly.



*Research Safety Meeting in October 2013*

For information contact  
Mike Durham at  
[mdurham@lsu.edu](mailto:mdurham@lsu.edu).

**LOVE PURPLE  
LIVE GOLD**

# Research Safety Committee Charge

The Research Safety Steering Committee is charged with providing oversight for all safety programs affecting LSU and LSU AgCenter research. The Steering Committee ensures coordination among Offices of the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Services, the Vice Chancellor of Research and Economic Development, the AgCenter Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experimental Stations, and relevant university safety committees, including the Inter-Institutional Biological and Recombinant DNA Safety Committee (IBRDSC) and the Radiation Safety Committee. The Steering Committee provides strategic direction to assure regulatory compliance for scientific research, promote a strong safety culture, and encourage best safety practices consistent with the university's safety policy. While serving in an overarching capacity to provide strategic direction for safety in research, the committee will not usurp authority given to other safety committees to specify safe procedures and protocols, and to enforce compliance with regulations.

For information contact Mike Durham at [mdurham@lsu.edu](mailto:mdurham@lsu.edu)

## The members of the Research Safety Steering Committee consist of:

- Radiation Safety Committee Chair
- Institutional Biological and Recombinant DNA Safety Committee Chair
- University Safety Committee Chair
- Manager, Laboratory Safety
- Manager, Biological Safety
- Director, Radiation Safety Office
- Director, Office of Sponsored Programs
- Executive Director, Administrative Services, and Risk Management
- Vice Chancellor and Director, Louisiana Agricultural Experimental Stations, AgCenter
- Vice Chancellor, Research & Economic Development, LSU
- Director, Environmental Health and Safety (current Committee Chair)
- Director, Research Compliance

## Accreditation Ceremony - September 26, 2013

LSU, through the Environmental Health and Safety Section, sponsors the Laboratory Accreditation Program, wherein research and academic labs on campus strive to achieve Safety Accreditation. This process involves an inspection routine that assures that all safety, health and environmental requirements under the LSU Safety Program, OSHA, EPA/DEQ and other regulatory agencies are fulfilled.

The accreditation process begins with a preliminary inspection, we call this a "quick audit", after which the lab is given time to "get their house in order". Finally, a thorough inspection is completed in which all components of the program are satisfied.

At the completion of the process, the laboratory is recognized in a ceremony where the Vice Chancellor, Research and Economic Development presents

a plaque of recognition, and the laboratory staff are provided with pizza and soft drinks. For information contact Dr. Jason LeJeune at [jleje24@lsu.edu](mailto:jleje24@lsu.edu).

## The following PIs and their lab staff were recognized:

Rendy Kartika - Chemistry  
Robin McCarley - Chemistry  
Evgueni Nesterov - Chemistry  
Justin Ragains - Chemistry  
Kevin Smith - Chemistry  
David Spivak - Chemistry  
Carol Taylor - Chemistry  
Graca Vicente - Chemistry  
Donghui Zhang - Chemistry  
Kalliat T. Valsaraj - Chemical Engineering

# Laboratory Accreditation Program Photos



*Kalliat Valsaraj, Justin Ragains,  
Mike Durham*



*Kalliat Valsaraj, Carlos Chavez,  
Mike Durham*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj,  
Rendy Kartika, Rashel Forgey,  
Andres Villalpando, Mirza Saputra,  
Mike Durham*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj,  
Nuwan Balapitiya, Bijeta Prasai,  
James Winter, Mike Durham Spivak,  
Stephen Smith, Britney Hebert*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj,  
Mike Durham, Aubrey Heath, Amie  
Hansel*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj, Alex  
L. Nguyen, Mike Durham*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj,  
Stephen Smith, Britney Hebert, Mike  
Durham*



*Jason LeJeune, Kalliat Valsaraj,  
Donghui Zhang, Jinbao Cao, Ashley  
Taylor, Albert Chao, Mike Durham*



*Jason LeJeune, Mike Durham,  
Kalliat Valsaraj, Evgueni Nesterov,  
Sourav Chatterjee, Deepa Pangeni,  
Carlos Chavez, Chien-Hung Chiang*



*Mike Durham, Jason LeJeune,  
Kalliat Valsaraj, David Spivak, Ste-  
phen Smith, Britney Hebert*

# New Tools for Laboratory Safety

---

The protection of employees, students and visitors working in laboratories on the LSU Campus is of paramount importance. In order to maintain that protection, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety provides assistance, training, and oversight to ensure safety and regulatory compliance for all uses of laboratory equipment and hazardous chemicals. EHS has developed the following new tools to help promote laboratory safety:

**Training Matrix** – provides a general guide for selection of required training for laboratory personnel. The matrix defines the worker type and general types of training required based on job function.

**Safety Training Checklist** – is used in conjunction with the training matrix to further define training topics and frequency of the training. The checklist can also be used by a researcher to document completion of the required training.

**Laboratory Assessment Tool (LAT)** – an on-line questionnaire designed to identify potential hazards in research labs. The tool helps guide the principal investigator (PI) in the implementation of appropriate hazard controls strategies. The resulting LAT report provides guidance for recognizing lab hazards, makes recommendations for the necessary administrative and engineering controls, and defines the personal protective equipment (PPE) required to eliminate or minimize potential exposure. The LAT automatically assigns the required on-line training to lab personnel based on hazards in your lab.

**On-line Laboratory Safety Training** – the classes that are automatically assigned by the Laboratory Assessment Tool (LAT) are available on the EHS website. For information contact Jerry Steward at [jsteward@lsu.edu](mailto:jsteward@lsu.edu)

# Inter-Institutional Biological and Recombinant DNA Safety Committee (IBRDSC) Update

---

Registration Database – new software has been purchased by the Ag Center, a new staff member has been hired, and the system is being beta tested. There are seven years of data to be transferred to the new database and the IBRDSC will discuss how to accomplish this. For information contact Dr. Greg Hayes at [ghayes@lsu.edu](mailto:ghayes@lsu.edu).

# Radiation Safety Committee Reminder

---

## Surplus of Equipment that Produces Ionization Radiation

Chapter 6 of the Louisiana Nuclear Energy and Radiation Control Law and Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the Louisiana Administrative Code 33:XV specify certain requirements applicable to regulate and control the utilization of all sources of radiation within the state of Louisiana.

It is mandatory to have sources of radiation and radiation signage/labeling/tags removed from radiation

equipment (e.g., X-ray units, gas chromatography instruments, and liquid scintillation counters) by a qualified individual before relocation, transfer, disposal, or surplus. To fully comply with the regulatory requirements, please contact the Radiation Safety Office at 578-2008 before relocation, transfer, disposal, or surplus of that property.

For information contact Dr. Wei-Hsung Wang at [weihsung@lsu.edu](mailto:weihsung@lsu.edu)