Faculty of Medicine – HSE Report January 2020

HSE Team Update

- Theresa Kahwati has started as the HSE BP for Science
- Alex Tillman has started as the HSE BP for Engineering
- Carmel Jaconelli is the new HSE Coordinator for Divisions

SafeSys/WHS Replacement update

- High level business requirements have been defined, refined and prioritised.
- Suitable solutions have been reviewed and validated based on the high-level requirements.
- Preferred providers have been identified via the UNSW Procurement process.
- Business case process has commenced. There is further information to be clarified including vendor selection, negotiated costs before finalising the Business Case.
- Detailed Planning commences in February 2020 and expected to be completed by April 2020.

SafeWork NSW Activity

- An update of progress of corrective actions for the SoMs eyesplash incident reported to SafeWork NSW was requested by Inspector Kerry Williams on 15/10/2019. A generic SWP/RMF for tail vein injections is currently in draft for review as an outstanding action.
- There were seven significant safety incidents at UNSW from 11 September – 8 November 2019. Five of these incidents were reportable to SafeWork NSW. SafeWork NSW have advised they are satisfied with the actions taken by UNSW.
- SafeWork Australia is evaluating the Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) for airborne contaminants and has sought feedback on their draft report. Of particular relevance to Medicine is the proposed reduction in WES for formaldehyde which is used in Anatomy laboratories and other areas where animal tissues are perfused/dissected. Proposed reductions of 1 part per million (ppm) to 0.1 ppm for time weighted average and 2ppm – 0.3ppm for short term exposure level will have a significant impact on these areas.

Incident reporting and investigations

- In total, 57 incidents were reported for the 2019 calendar year and 10 worker’s compensation claims were lodged (up from 5 in 2018). The most frequent mechanism of injury in 2019 was muscular stress (3) and falls (2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>% completed/closed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazards reported</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents reported</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplace inspections completed</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Inspection corrective Actions</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>73%</td>
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Training

- Health & Safety Consultation (HSECCO) training is now available in moodle. All new committee members are required to complete this course and this will be monitored by H&S committees.
- A total of 55 supervisors have completed Laboratory Supervisor courses since the course re-commenced in September 2019. Seven laboratory supervisor courses have been scheduled for 2020.

Training statistics from PiMS report run 22/10/19*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>New staff (target 100%)</th>
<th>All Staff (target 80%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>2207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% completed HSE Awareness</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% completed HSE Ergonomics</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% completed Responsible Employee</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>52</td>
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High risk issues:

- 2 high risk issues raised this reporting period:
  - Potential exposure to formaldehyde fumes during rodent perfusion in Wallace Wurth BRC. A recirculating fume hood has been installed as a temporary control measure but users have reported several issues with current setup. A consultant (Scientific Interiors) has been engaged to provide recommendations on preferred engineering control options.
  - With the pending change in formaldehyde WES, Scientific Interiors has also been engaged to assess the ability of current ventilation systems in the mortuary and anatomy teaching areas to meet the proposed new WES.

In the news

- Currently, the 2019-nCoV, also known as Coronavirus, sees the University traverse an environment that is dynamic and changing on a daily (or sometimes hourly) basis. Staff and students are encouraged to raise any concerns they have with their supervisors or via the help lines while UNSW continues to communicate to the wider community through various channels and provides staff with ongoing information.
- The employer of two supervisors who were convicted for recklessly attacking an apprentice has been convicted and fined for failing to address bullying and harassment in its otherwise extensive WHS policies. Tad-Mar Electrical Pty Ltd was fined $15,000, from a maximum available penalty of $500,000, after pleading guilty to breaching sections 19 ("Primary duty of care") and 33 ("Failure to comply with health and safety duty–Category 3") of the NSW WHS Act 2011.
- The NSW Government has made the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019 to introduce a new penalty notice offence. PCBUs can now be handed on-the-spot fines of up to $6,000 for failing to notify SafeWork NSW immediately after becoming aware that a notifiable incident arising out of the conduct of the business or undertaking has occurred.

*source data from PiMS online Health & Safety reporting system for the period 01.01/19 – 31/12/19