Laboratory Safety Representative

The Laboratory Safety Representative (LSR) is selected by the Principal Investor (PI) to serve as the liaison between the laboratory and/or PI and Research and Environmental Safety (RES). The LSR assists the Principal Investigator with laboratory safety and compliance matters. The LSR is typically the laboratory manager or senior research assistant, however, the PI can choose themselves as LSR provided they carry out the LSR responsibilities.

It is important to note that the PI is ultimately responsible for laboratory safety, including ensuring all personnel receive the proper training prior to the beginning of their work.

LSR Responsibilities

The laboratory safety representative must be trained and be knowledgeable of the policies and procedures governing laboratory safety and emergency responses at their laboratory.

The laboratory safety representative will:

1) Ensure that the laboratory door sign is up to date.
2) Help maintain and update biological and chemical inventories.
3) Be able to identify hazards and ensure engineering controls in the laboratory are properly functioning, e.g. biosafety cabinet or fume hood. The LSR will contact RES if any issues arise.
4) Ensure hazardous waste (biological, chemical, radiological) is properly packaged and disposed of.
5) The LSR will ensure/encourage laboratory members to wear PPE.
6) Assist the PI in ensuring that all laboratory members are up to date with their safety trainings. The trainings include Laboratory Safety, Hazardous Waste, Biosafety and Radiation Safety (if working with radioactive materials).
7) Periodically perform laboratory self-assessments. The LSR may request assistance with laboratory self-assessment procedures from RES.
8) Communicate with RES regarding any changes to the laboratory, such as a move to a new location, disposal of equipment, changes in laboratory personnel, etc.