

**External Laboratory Safety Workgroup (ELSW)  
Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015  
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

Attendance	
Joseph Kanabrocki, PhD, CBSP – <i>Co-Chair</i>	✓
Kenneth Berns, MD, PhD – <i>Co-Chair</i>	✓
Debra L. Hunt, DrPH, CBSP	✓
Thomas V. Inglesby, MD	✓
Patricia Olinger, RBP	✓
Michael Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)	✓
David Relman, MD, PhD	✓
Heather J. Sheeley, BA, MS, CBiol, MSB, CMIOSH, FISTR	✓
Fred Sparling, MD	✓
Jill Taylor, PhD	✓
Domenica (Dee) Zimmerman	✓
Sarah Wiley, MPH, <i>Designated Federal Officer (DFO)</i>	✓
Steve Monroe, PhD, <i>Acting Director for Laboratory Science and Safety, OADLSS (proposed)</i>	✓
✓ In attendance	

**Meeting Summary**

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

*Sarah Wiley, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and ELSW Members*

**Laboratory Safety Survey Update**

*Sarah Wiley*

Ms. Wiley shared that the annual laboratory staff survey was complete. While fewer staff members responded than in 2014, the demographics were still representative of CDC laboratory staff. The survey data are being analyzed, and ELSW members will receive a draft report prior to their October visit. A one hour session during their visit has been scheduled for a presentation and discussion of the results.

**CDC Updates**

*Dr. Monroe, Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

Dr. Monroe provided the ELSW with an update of OADLSS (proposed) activities. The office has on-going efforts in community engagement and staff recognition, including Laboratory Safety Champions and highlighting laboratories that are models of quality and best practices. The office is also finalizing an official risk assessment policy that aligns with the regularly-offered risk assessment training.

Dr. Monroe, Dr. Dauphin, and Ms. Wiley visited the National Institute for Occupation Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Cincinnati and Morgantown. The visit showed some of the efforts NIOSH is making around exposure measurements, approaches to laboratory safety, and an overall unified approach to safety. NIOSH is reviewed under the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program.

CDC’s benchmarking visits for ISO accreditation were also completed. The office is putting together a consolidated report that will provide guidance to the pilot laboratories that are proceeding with ISO accreditation.

The initial tablet implementation pilot in the laboratories was met with mixed feedback, particularly in regards to the hardware used for the pilot. The office has received approval from CDC’s IT office to proceed with other hardware options for the pilot, specifically Android tablets and iPads. The office will evaluate these platforms with the input of laboratory staff to determine if either are a better option than the initial Windows-based hardware.

**External Laboratory Safety Workgroup (ELSW)  
Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015  
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.**

**Discussion Points**

*Dr. Monroe, Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

The group responded to and discussed a number of issues related to CDC and the proposed OADLSS.

- NIOSH uses a “near-miss” form that has helped its unified approach to incident reporting, and OADLSS can learn from this approach to worker protection and risk evaluation.
- Tablets can be burdensome from a data entry and decontamination standpoint. CDC is evaluating approaches for both daily and complete decontamination of the tablets.
- Ms. Olinger provided details about how Emory used and decontaminated tablets in their BSL-3 settings; CDC will reach out to Ms. Olinger to get more specific details that may be pertinent to the tablet pilot.

**Update: October 5-6, 2015 CDC In-Person Visit**

*Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

ELSW members reviewed the draft agenda for the October visit and made the following comments/suggestions:

- The group would like to meet with someone from Ft. Collins to hear how far-reaching the efforts in Atlanta have been in terms of other CDC campuses
- Dr. Monroe will do a systematic presentation of the agency’s responses to the ELSW’s recommendations included in their 2014 report

**Discussion Points**

*Dr. Monroe, Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

The group discussed planning and reporting details related to the October in-person visit. These points included:

- CDC is finalizing the list of staff members the ELSW will meet with during their engagement sessions.
- The ELSW anticipates developing a summary progress report after their in-person visit.
- Ms. Wiley noted that additional recommendations would be welcomed by CDC.
- The next ACD meeting is October 29<sup>th</sup>; it would be helpful if the ELSW could put together a report for presentation at ACD based on their findings from the October visit.
- ELSW may put together some overarching observations related to all their HHS visits; however this would be separate from the results of the October meeting.

**Administrative Matters and Adjournment**

*Sarah Wiley, ELSW Members*

- The next ELSW teleconference is September 22 at 9am EST.
- ELSW members have made hotel arrangements for their visit, and CDC will begin booking travel through the travel system shortly.
- Ms. Wiley will forward the ELSW members a link to the FDA report when it is posted on FDA’s website.