Welcome to this edition of WSLH Online! -- The internal newsletter for and by Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene employees. If you have anything you’d like to add or contribute, please send an e-mail to WSLH Online! Editor Jan Klawitter.

Information and photos for the next newsletter are due by Wed., June 5th.

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**WSLH Helps Milwaukee Celebrate Bucks Playoff Run**

Before the Milwaukee Bucks poured 50 pounds of dye into the Milwaukee River on April 12th, turning the usually dark water bright green in celebration of the team getting into the NBA playoffs, a smaller amount of the dye was sent to the WSLH for testing.

WSLH Environmental Toxicology staff ran both acute and chronic tests exposing fathead minnows and water fleas to different concentrations of the dye to ensure it would be safe for aquatic life. EHD Inorganic Chemistry and Metals also performed safety testing – all at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Becca Fahney holds up a dilution of the green dye in the Environmental Toxicology lab while Dawn Perkins works in the background.


KUDOs

Dave Warshauer Receives TB Lifetime Achievement Award

WSLH Communicable Disease Division Deputy Director Dave Warshauer received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).

The award was announced April 24th at the 11th National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis. The APHL award recognizes a lifetime of distinguished service, leadership and excellence to the field of Tuberculosis Diagnostics and Training.

Dave wasn’t able to be present at the ceremony, but here’s what was read -

Dave Warshauer has been Deputy Director of the Communicable Disease Division at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for nearly 19 years and provides strategic and operational technical leadership and guidance to the Divisional staff in all diagnostic matters with an additional 15 years prior spent as a private sector clinical laboratory director in Milwaukee, WI. Dave is a very active member of the public health laboratory community working closely with scientists throughout the country and at the CDC. Over the past ten years, Dave has served on a number of APHL committees including the ID Committee, the TB subcommittee of which he chaired from 2010-2018 and the Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee (since its inception in 2015) and is served as a representative to the CDC’s Advisory Council for the Elimination of Tuberculosis for the last three years. With Dave's significant contributions, work of these committees and subcommittees have resulted in a number of APHL and CDC publications related to TB laboratory best practices, laboratory self-assessment, and diagnostic guidelines. In addition, Dave has served as a subject matter expert (SME) for in-person and online TB training courses and as a speaker and moderator for numerous TB-related sessions at statewide and national meetings including the National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of TB and NTCA's National TB meeting where he has been a steadfast figure and constant source of information. And outside of all of his expertise Dave is just fun to work with. This is why we put him on all of the committees. He’s genuinely funny; he doesn’t take himself too seriously but still provides conscientious, knowledgeable and thoughtful insights to anything he’s involved in. If you have to work it pays to like what you do and have fun doing it and to surround yourself with people who do the same. Dave is one of those people. Dave plans to retire in the near future and we’re all going to miss him a lot.
Robert Vercellino is now a Certified Safety Professional

Ernie Stracener, WisCon Program Manager

Congratulations to WisCon Consultant Robert Vercellino!!!

On April 5th he sat for the Certified Safety Professional (CSP) exam and emerged from the testing center, VICTORIOUS!!!

This is a substantial professional and personal achievement that requires much study, practice, years of professional safety experience, and endurance during the examination itself.

Robert works for Wisconsin’s 21(d) On-Site Consultation Program (“WisCon”) as an Industrial Hygiene (IH) consultant.

Because it is sometimes difficult to describe the significance of this achievement to people employed outside of the safety and health field, the Board of Certified Safety Professional (BCSP) describes it this way on their website at:

http://bcsp.org/CSP

“Just as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in accounting denotes a measurable standard of competency, the CSP…(is)...recognized as having met the professional challenge of illustrating competency through education and/or training, experience, and examination.”

The requirements for the CSP credential are:

1. Minimum of a bachelor’s degree.

2. Minimum of four (4) years of safety experience where safety is at least 50%, preventative, professional level with breadth and depth of safety duties.

3. Hold a BCSP Qualified Credential (Robert had earned the Associate Safety Professional certification in 2018)

4. Pass the CSP examination

5. Maintain the certification through on-going professional practice and professional development

Way to Go Robert!
Out and About on UW Campus

WSLH staff and students were spotted at various events across the UW-Madison campus in April.

Cytotechnology Program Recruits at Health Careers Fair

Kaitlin Sundling (in black dress), Changhong Ye (in red coat), Nancy Wade and Donna Egelski with the UW/WSLH Cytotechnology Certificate Program spoke to many interested undergrads about the possibilities of a Cytotech career at the UW Center for Pre-Health Advising’s Health Care Career Fair on April 18th.

The Center for Pre-Health Advising (CPHA) is a resource for UW-Madison students and alumni who are exploring, preparing, and applying to health professional programs.

The Cytotechnology training program at the WSLH started in the late 1950s and can accept up to 12 students for its one-year program.
Going Global

Olivia Feider (left), WSLH water microbiologist and UW-Eau Claire alumna, and Tori Vouk, B.S. candidate at UW-Eau Claire, stand in front of their poster at UW-Madison’s Global Health Symposium on April 16th.

The symposium, sponsored by UW-Madison’s Global Health Institute, focused on “Health in the Balance: Acting Now for a Healthy Tomorrow”.

Olivia and Tori’s poster detailed a research project they undertook at UW-Eau Claire investigating the source of nitrate contamination in private wells in Eau Claire County. The research focused on determining whether agricultural or human sources were responsible for the high nitrate levels. It was found that the main sources of nitrate contamination were linked to agricultural herbicides however caffeine was found to be the third top source of nitrate. Any theories?

The final report of this research project was submitted to the DNR in fall 2018.

WSLH Director Jamie Schauer also participated in the symposium as a panelist discussing “Planetary Health: Recognizing Earth’s Limits to Advance Health for All.”

Undergraduate Symposium

Alana Sterkel, CDD Assistant Director

Coleton King is a senior at UW-Madison earning his bachelor’s degree with a double major in Biochemistry and Psychology.

In addition to working as a student lab tech in the WSLH Trace Elements Clean Lab, Coleton is doing a Global Health internship this semester in the WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) validating a Hepatitis C sequencing assay to help combat rising rates of the disease.

He presented a poster about his project on Global Hepatitis Outbreak and Surveillance Technology (GHOST) at the April 12th Undergraduate Research Symposium on campus.

Coleton is a great student and we are happy to have his help in the lab!
Quality Assurance ... It Matters To Us All
Lisa Berkan, QAC Co-Chair, Clinical Programs

In a recent message to WSLH staff, WSLH Director Jamie Schauer announced that “the quality of the work performed and data produced by WSLH is of paramount importance.” In that short message, a lot was stated. Each of us was delivered a charge, an expectation.

In the April newsletter, our Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) Training Subcommittee provided an image that summarized the WSLH Mission Statement - To improve and protect the human condition by providing accurate and precise testing, service, research and education - in one word, Excellence.

What about our WSLH vision statement? To be a global leader in improving quality of life through the advancement of science-based public, environmental and occupational health laboratory practice and policy.

In that same message, Jamie shared that “in the context of quality and continuing improvements” he has been working with our WSLH Division Directors and our Quality Assurance Committee to structure foundation and support, lab-wide, for current efforts and future change. So, what does “quality assurance” mean?

qual-i-ty as-sur-ance (QA)
noun
A program for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service, or facility to ensure that standards of quality are being met. Merriam-Webster Dictionary

The maintenance of a desired level of quality in a service or product, especially by means of attention to every stage of the process of delivery or production. Oxford Dictionaries

A summary statement for all of the various components that make up quality assurance is “finding the right fit that ensures the opportunity to do it right the first time”. Anonymous

We are the public health laboratory for the state of Wisconsin. We are our own customers.

What does QA mean to you?
The QA Training Subcommittee is eagerly preparing for the first QA Brown Bag session! This event will include some general QA awareness, offering a big picture overview of QA at the WSLH. Dates for this event are July 23rd at Henry Mall and 25th at Ag Drive.

If you have questions, suggestions, or something to share, please do not hesitate to contact any one of the QAC members, or all of us through email at QAC@slh.wisc.edu
Early planning is the key to success

Mark Conklin, WSLH Purchasing

Working with the Purchasing Team early in the process can be the key to success. The Purchasing Team can assist you with probing questions about what supplies and services are needed; such as printing, business cards and scheduling transportation to a conference. Usually, early consultation saves not only money, but reduces anxiety from uncertainty. Allow the Purchasing Team to free you up to do what you do best. Just email purchasing@wslh.wisc.edu or call us.


The above document is located at http://www.bussvc.wisc.edu/acct/policy/travel/privateveh.html and addresses all the questions associated with a WSLH employee using their own vehicle for WSLH business.

For example:

1. Employees and students who are required to drive on University sponsored business MUST be authorized to drive by UW-Madison Risk Management prior to operating personal vehicles, rental vehicles or fleet vehicles.

2. When is mileage reimbursable? Mileage is reimbursable when an individual drives a privately owned vehicle in order to conduct UW-Madison business. Reimbursement will NOT be made for normal commuting mileage from an employee’s personal residence to their assigned headquarters. Miles traveled to pick up additional passengers when traveling together on UW business is reimbursable.

3. Visiting temporary worksites (e.g. local meetings, daytrips): Employees that travel to temporary worksites are reimbursed for mileage based on where they depart from and where they return to.

4. For employees with multiple worksites, the employing department must determine which location qualifies as the official assigned headquarters.

5. All of the above statements are predicated on the short route and have a starting and ending address. A Goggle Map, or similar product, indicating the trip must be attached to the reimbursement. You do not need to print out the route map. The route travel detail is acceptable as long as the total miles are indicated on the document.

Material Distribution System (MDS) Packing Slips Processing

MDS packing slips need to be provided to Purchasing for reconciliation. Packing slips can be processed by: 1) Attaching the packing slip to the E48. 2) Sending the packing slip back to Purchasing via Interdepartmental Mail. Either method is acceptable and will allow the Purchasing team to ensure that the WSLH is receiving what is being ordered and charged accurately.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.
**WSLH Job Opportunities**

A list of available positions at the WSLH can be found on the web site at [http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/employment/](http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/employment/) Take a look for yourself or forward the link to folks you think might be interested and qualified.

**Welcome to the WSLH**

Wonder who that new face is you see in the hallway or the lunchroom? It could be one of the WSLH’s new employees. In each newsletter, we’ll feature folks who’ve started at the WSLH since the previous newsletter was published. You can find a running list of new employees on the internal web site at:


**Joshua Kropp**

WSLH Unit you will be working in: CDD

Supervisor: Audrey Prieve

Start Date: 4/8/19

Education: BS, Clinical Laboratory Science from UW Stevens Point

Hometown: Wausau, WI

Personal Interests: hiking, fishing, hunting, travel, piano and pipe organ, singing, volunteering
Crazylegged Laboratorians Brave Wind and Snow

Although we didn’t get the 8 inches of snow that was predicted for April 27th, winter’s last gasp still caused some less than pleasant running weather for the annual Crazylegs Run.

But our WSLH Crazylegged Laboratorians prevailed as they joined more than 10,000 people winding their way through the UW-Madison campus to raise money for UW Athletics.

Pictured below are (from left):

Les Henderson (Cytogenetics), Jim Hermanson (OIS), Dave Webb (EHD), Ted Savage (Forensic Toxicology) and Cara Savage (Ted’s sister who actually ran with her employer’s group from Realtime Utility Engineers). Not pictured was Stephanie Weber, formerly with Forensic Toxicology, who was parking her car when the photo was taken. Even though Stephanie now works at Exact Sciences, she’ll always be a Crazylegged Laboratorian.