Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories

The recommendations in the *Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories* document were produced in response to the Chemical Safety Board recommendations to: "Develop good practice guidance that identifies and describes methodologies to assess and control hazards that can be used successfully in a research laboratory.

The CCS, in close coordination with the Division of Chemical Health and Safety, commissioned a task force of stakeholders and subject matter experts to create a guide for identifying and evaluating hazards, and managing the associated risks of these hazards in research laboratories.

The following factors were considered during the development of this guide:

- To provide techniques to ensure hazard information is gathered and analyzed;
- To aid researchers in recognizing the value of input from others with varying experiences;
- To provide techniques that can be used for a variety of different types of activities (routine protocols, modifications to current research, or entirely new activities); and
- To consider the variable nature of research tasks by providing tools that help researchers recognize and respond to change—both large and small.

This guide was written for researchers without deference to the stage in their careers—undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, instructors, PIs, or departmental chairs for implementation in a scientific research laboratory. Consideration was given to the variable nature of research in the preparation of this guide and in the presentation of the techniques provided. Furthermore, this guide provides assessment approaches that are intended to be relatively easy to implement and use. While research laboratories and researchers are the primary audience for this guide, other readers may find it equally useful.