

The ACS Committee on Chemical Safety
August 23, 2017
Oral Report Presentation by Elizabeth Howson, Chair
Washington DC

Madam President, Fellow Councilors, and Guests:

With deep gratitude to the Board, Staff and Society members for its continued efforts, the ACS 2017 strategic plan now includes safety as part of the core values for the Society. Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) applauds the Board on positioning chemical safety within the ACS Strategic Plan and also for dedicating a full-time staff position to safety programs.

The CCS Communication Subcommittee conducted a study to determine how chemical and procedural hazard and safety information are communicated in core chemistry journals. This study reported that only 8% of over 700 chemistry journals surveyed mentioned safety in their author guidelines. ACS Journals initiated a new safety reporting requirement starting in 2017 which states that authors must “address and emphasize any unexpected, new, and/or significant hazards or risks associated with reported work”. The CCS applauds ACS Publications on this new requirement and offers its support as this new policy is implemented.

The 8th edition of Safety in Academic Chemical Laboratories or SACL (shown at the slide) was printed in early 2017. The new edition entitled Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories. Best Practices for the First- and Second- Year University Students, has already sold over 4,000 copies in preparation for the new academic year. An Arabic translation is in progress and a Spanish, Chinese and Indonesian translations are being discussed.

The committee continues to engage the education community in the promotion of the Safety Education Guidelines which integrate the R.A.M.P. principles (shown at the slide) into chemical education. Additionally, CCS in conjunction with Corporation Associates and the Division of Chemical, Health and Safety has received Society funds to finalize the Student eLearning Project in the area of chemical safety.

Members of CCS and DiVCHAS developed two public policy statements regarding safety. *Safety in the Chemistry Enterprise* policy is targeted at regulators and policymakers to address the Society’s position regarding laws and regulations concerning chemical safety issues. *Safety Guidelines for the Chemistry Professional – Understanding Your Role and Responsibilities* establishes guidelines for the ACS Membership and other interested parties on behalf of the community of safety professionals within ACS.

To advance both ACS vision and mission the committee continues to seek ways to strengthen the safety culture of academic and other institutions and address ways to improve laboratory safety as well as to find ways to prevent or minimize incidents in academic institutions. CCS seeks your ideas, suggestions, and feedback to make chemistry safer. SLIDE Please send your comments to safety@acs.org

Madam President, this concludes my report.

Elizabeth Howson, Committee on Chemical Safety Chair