The ACS Committee on Chemical Safety

August 24, 2016

Oral Report Presentation by Elizabeth Howson, Chair

Philadelphia, PA

**Madam President, Fellow Councilors, and Guests:**

The Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS), along with many other prominent organizations, has been leading an effort to strengthen the culture of safety in educational institutions. In response to reported incidents in academic laboratories and during demonstrations that resulted in either serious injury or death, CCS issued numerous publications and safety alerts. Among them were the ones shown on the slide.

Both of these resources emphasize the importance of integrating safety education throughout the chemistry curriculum. Principles of safety must be taught over time rather than just during one-time safety trainings. To provide further guidance on integrating safety education into chemistry curricula, CCS established the Task Force for Safety Education Guidelines to develop guidelines for laboratory safety. At this meeting in Philadelphia, the taskforce presented the committee with the final documents shown on the slide.

The Safety Education Guidelines are organized around the concept of R.A.M.P. – an acronym for the Four Principles of Safety: **R**ecognize the hazard, **A**ssess the risk of the hazard, **M**inimize the risk of the hazard, and **P**repare for emergencies.The guidelines alsoincludestudent learning outcomes which clearly state the expected knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies in the area of chemical safety that students are expected to learn as they progress with their education. To request the copy of the guidelines please send the message to safety@acs.org or download them from [www.acs.org/safety](http://www.acs.org/safety)

CCS, in collaboration with ACS Web Strategy, is pleased to present a new website with a rich collection of methods and tools for assessing hazards in research laboratories. The site is based on the document *Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories*, a guide created by the CCS in response to a recommendation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) for ACS to develop such guidance. The *Hazard Assessment in Research Laboratories* website provides easier access and navigation through the rich information, thus leading to greater usability. The committee hopes that these new tools will provide additional support for researchers to develop plans for identifying and assessing risks for experimental procedures which in turn will reduce the likelihood and consequences of unwanted incidents. This new resource is now available at [www.acs.org/hazardassessment](http://www.acs.org/hazardassessment)

I thank you for your attention and wish to remind you that CCS seeks your ideas, suggestions, and feedback to make chemistry safer. Please send your comments to safety @acs.org

 Madam President, this concludes my report.

Elizabeth Howson, Committee on Chemical Safety Chair