

To the Physical and Biological Sciences Community:

Recent events on Science Hill and changes in governmental requirements for academic research facilities have prompted me to write you regarding security issues in our labs. Repeated thefts over the past several months raise a number of issues, and call for heightened awareness and responsiveness from all members of our community. In the last year, the threat of terrorism has prompted passage of several new laws regarding the security of radiological, biological and chemical research materials.

Our first concern is and always will be the safety and security of our researchers. It is incumbent upon us all to insure the security of our buildings, especially after hours when there are fewer people present and increased vulnerability. We have also suffered substantial property losses from theft during these hours indicating significant breaches and disruption to research. The division is exploring several avenues to increase the physical security of the buildings by re-keying doors and adding or beefing up locks. We are also working with Campus Police to pilot increased surveillance and reporting systems.

These measures must necessarily be matched by individual and cultural efforts to insure the safety of our researchers and the security of research, equipment and materials. If doors are propped open or left unlocked, keys are loaned, lost or mismanaged, or strangers are granted entry without question, then even the most secure locks are ineffective. Physical security systems afford little protection when defeated by the users.

If at any time you or your staff discover an unauthorized individual in your lab or attempting to remove restricted material or valuables from your lab, please call 911 immediately. Do not challenge suspected perpetrators yourself, that is the job of the Police, but note closely their description, clothing or any identifying characteristics. If you feel there is any physical threat, immediately remove yourself and others and call 911 from a safe refuge.

At the end of last year, a number of other UC campuses were audited for security performance by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Future audits of UC campuses are expected.

The Santa Cruz Campus has not been greatly affected thus far in that there is no current research using the specific Select Agents of the Bioterrorism Laws for which we were required to review our inventories and submit negative declarations. As the Homeland Security Laws cast a wider net and/or new research brings us under increased scrutiny and requirements, we will be

required to formalize our measures in writing. Federal funding agencies, particularly NIH, USDA, and DoD, are particularly aware of research security and we can expect to see compliance questions in response to future grant requests.

Given that we have an open campus environment, it is very important that access to specific materials of concern is controlled and users of restricted materials are clearly identified and documented. Also, any time a change has occurred in personnel authorized to use restricted materials in your lab, please notify EH&S of the change as soon as possible.

Please review the attached document 'Security of Hazardous Materials' which outlines specific suggestions for laboratory security against theft of hazardous materials. The division must remain vigilant in its efforts to insure the safety and security of our laboratories, our buildings in general, and especially those areas with particularly hazardous materials.

Sincerely,

David S. Kliger
Dean of Physical and Biological Sciences