

Health and Safety for Principal Investigators

Ian Gillett
Safety Director

Why are you here?

It's not my responsibility – is it?

Nothing's ever happened – yet!

Well what are the “Safety” people for?

I haven't got time for this.

One of my postdocs can cover this.

I didn't have to do this when I was working in...

- the States
- Switzerland
- etc

...and then.....

London
**Evening
Standard**
standard.co.uk

News

Kiran Randhawa and Mark Blunden
2 Nov 2011

THE mother of a scientist who died while working alone at night at a leading London hospital today demanded answers over his death.

Linda Bowen questioned why her son Damian was working alone with "highly dangerous chemicals" before his body was found by colleagues the next morning.

An inquest into the death of the 32-year-old geneticist, who worked at an HIV research centre attached to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, was opened and adjourned at Westminster coroner's court this morning.

Mrs Bowen, from Luton, said apart from being told there was a "suspected chemical leak", the family have been left in the dark as to what happened to Mr Bowen before his body was discovered at 6.30am last Thursday.

Mrs Bowen, 55, said: "What worries me is that nobody checked on him from the time he went into the lab at 8:15pm to when he was found dead the next morning. The questions we want answered are why was he working alone? We don't know whether this was normal practice or not but it seems strange that if you're working with such dangerous chemicals, nobody checks on you."

She added the police said the scientist, who lived in Hackney, could have fallen victim to a "chemical leak" at the St Stephen's Centre on Fulham Road. There was speculation the death may have involved liquid nitrogen, which investigators have refused to be drawn on. A post-mortem examination proved 'inconclusive' and Scotland Yard is treating the death as unexplained.

iCare

...or this!



College Policy - Accountability

Principal Investigators are accountable to their Head of Department/ Division for the health and safety of their research activities and for its compliance with College and statutory requirements.

You must ensure that proper arrangements are in place to discharge your responsibilities.

Control



Competence - Training

Ensure that appropriate induction and training is provided for all staff, students, visitors and contractors and that staff attend such training.

- Day One Induction Checklist – emergency procedures
- Risk Assessment Foundation Training
- “Month One” Basic Health and Safety Training
- Identify any special training needs.

The right person with the right training and experience for the task.

Culture

“For me, the evidence of culture is how people behave when no-one is watching” – Bob Diamond, Chief Executive, Barclays

As a Principal Investigator it is the standards that you set that your researchers will follow and which will be reflected in the quality of the research you carry out.

Culture

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About me



Alexander

Course

MEng Computing (Artificial Intelligence)
1st Year

About me

Favourite place in London? South Kensington. Loving the poshness

Schedule



Click here for the **weekend**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:00					
09:00		Shopping		Tutorial - Programming	
10:00	Lab - Programming	Lecture - Computer Systems	Lecture - Databases		Lecture - Discrete Maths II
11:00	Tutorial	Lecture - Object Oriented Programming		Lecture - Reasoning About Programs	
12:00		Lecture - Advanced Programming		Computing Industry Talking	Tutorial - Maths and Logic
13:00	STOIC		Student Newspaper		
14:00	Lecture - Systems			Lunch	Student Newspaper
15:00		Lecture - Discrete Maths II		Lecture - Reasoning	
16:00	Lecture - Databases			Student Newspaper	Dry Ice
17:00		Study		Tutorial	
18:00			Cinema	Eastside	Eastside
19:00	Coursework - Reasoning				
20:00					Birthday Celebration
21:00			Union Bar		
22:00	Film	Computing Bar Night		Film	
23:00					Film

Culture

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Schedule

Student media

About me



Returned to halls and messed around with some dry ice with a few friends while watching TV.

22

Film

Film

23⁰⁰

How we can help you

- Policies, Procedures
- Advice
 - Central Safety Department – Anton de Paiva; John Luke; Julia Cotton (also College Fire Office and Occupational Health)
 - Faculty Safety Manager – Steve Greenwood(Engineering)
 - Departmental Safety Adviser – Margaret Cunningham, John Charnley
- Training
 - Induction, Month One, RAFT and many other courses
- Inspections and Audit

If it goes wrong

- Investigate and inform Safety Department - Salus
- Safety Department – inform regulators if necessary
- Regulators may conduct investigation
- Improvements Notices and Prohibition Notices
- Criminal law – fines, costs, and, maybe, imprisonment
- Civil law – compensation
- Publicity

Please remember

Health and Safety is **YOUR** responsibility

– You are the one doing the work

So – you are the one who needs to manage the health and safety of the work.

But there are people to help you.



iCare Campaign

iCare

Control the situation

Assess the hazards

Reduce the risk

Educate staff and students