

## Faculty of Natural Sciences

### Health and Safety Statement by Prof Tom Welton, Dean of Faculty of Natural Sciences



The Faculty of Natural Sciences is committed to excellence in research and teaching. It is not possible to achieve this unless we are also committed to excellence in Health and Safety management and practice. Meeting these high standards is the responsibility of everyone; that means you!

Early in my career, one of my students had an accident that led to her spending a night in hospital. This was a dreadful experience for everyone involved, of course the student herself, but also her lab mates and me. I have never come so close to giving up science. By following the instructions and guidance in the College Health and Safety Structure and Responsibilities document and Health and Safety website you can avoid finding yourself in such a situation.

The first step in achieving good Health and Safety practices is thorough risk assessment of any health, safety or environmental hazards and the implementation of the necessary control measures arising from this. This process must be systematic, recorded and reviewed and must be done by all staff and students before the activity in question is begun.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences has put in place the following to help you to meet your responsibilities:

- The Faculty Safety Team and Dept. and Dept. Safety Advisors provide advice and guidance on health and safety issues.
- Each Dept. has a health and safety committee chaired by the Head of Dept., with suitable representation for staff and students.
- Inspections of work areas are completed regularly, with good practice being highlighted and assistance given to improve issues where needed.
- There is a 'no blame culture' to encourage staff and students to report accidents and near misses so they can be prevented in the future.
- All staff and students have access to College, Dept. and local training courses and induction documents and are actively encouraged to attend where it is relevant to their role.

*Further guidance and information can be found via the College, Faculty and Dept. safety webpages.*