Greetings from the Director . . .

I am pleased to present our first EHRS Annual. A lot has changed in our department and we want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on some of those changes.

Starting in 2017, we rebuilt our organizational structure and revised our approach to safety so that we can provide even better service to the Temple community. We accepted some new challenges by forming a dedicated Occupational Safety group and took a hard look at the way we provide more familiar safety services. We implemented these changes with the intention of becoming more helpful, useful and collaborative to the people and departments we serve.

This first Annual is an opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to you. In the following pages, you will find some basic information about what we do grouped by program topic. In future additions, we will reinforce our mission, update our accomplishments and state our future goals. I hope you find it interesting.

Greg Lupinski
Director

Our Mission

Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) is committed to achieving and maintaining a safe and healthy environment that advances Temple's excellence in education, research and health care.
Chemical Safety

The Chemical Safety Program provides guidance and support to all students, faculty and staff concerning the recognition, evaluation and control of chemical hazards. Our goal is to provide the safest possible work environment for Temple personnel and the surrounding community while minimizing risk to property and the environment.

Our Chemical Safety Program includes:

- Laboratory Safety & Chemical Hygiene
- Hazard Communication
- Chemical Inventory (CEMS)
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- Security of Hazardous Chemicals
- Controlled Substances for Research

We also oversee a robust chemical waste management program. We are responsible for the removal, storage, tracking and disposal of all hazardous chemical waste generated by departments, shops, laboratories and facilities management on all University campuses.

In FY2018, over 1,000 chemical waste requests were processed, resulting in over 77 tons of chemical waste being properly packaged and shipped for disposal to an approved Hazardous Waste Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility.

Radiation Safety

The Radiation Safety Program is responsible for the safe use and handling, recognition, and evaluation of radioactive materials (RAM) and radiation producing equipment throughout both Temple University and its Health System.

Our Radiation Safety Program includes:

- RAM Use Authorizations, through the Temple University Radiation Safety Committee
- RAM Procurement
- RAM Waste Disposal
- Security of RAM
- Exposure and Hazard Assessments
- Radiation Producing Machine Surveys

The Radiation Safety group also manages a radiation dosimetry (dose measuring) program. The program includes issuing dosimeters (badges) to radiation users, conducting pregnancy counseling and radiation monitoring, and the evaluation of user exposures to assess work practices and/or equipment function to control.

In FY2018, more than 6,500 radiation badges were distributed and associated user exposure results were reviewed and tabulated.
Biological Safety

The Biological Safety Program addresses state and federal regulations and guidelines that govern the use, storage, transportation and disposal of all biological materials. The program provides resources and expertise to support faculty and staff in implementing safe and compliant laboratory practices. The ultimate goal is to protect university personnel, the environment and the public from biological hazards.

There are three primary University committees that EHRS works closely with to assess the biological safety protocols applications provided by Principal Investigators (PIs):

- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB)

In FY2018, EHRS reviewed over 500 protocol submissions, ensuring work with biological materials was safe and compliant with applicable regulations.

Occupational Safety

The Occupational Safety Program is our newest formalized program and is charged with improving the safety of our work environments. Through the identification, evaluation and control of potentially hazardous conditions, the goal is to reduce the number and severity of injuries to staff, faculty and students.

Within the Occupational Safety Program, EHRS:

- Conducts ergonomic assessments, which evaluate an employee’s workplace, equipment, body mechanics, posture, and job flow to promote a more efficient and productive worker and minimize injuries.
- Ensures the safe shipment and receipt of dangerous goods within the University and Health System while maintaining compliance with applicable regulatory agencies.
- Implements elements of OSHA’s Respiratory Protection Standard, to ensure that employees and students are properly trained and fit-tested to reduce exposure to airborne contaminants.

During FY2018, EHRS provided technical assistance and support for the shipment of approximately 370 packages of dangerous goods and training for over 190 shippers.
Training Program

EHRS has a robust training program that offers classes both online (temple.edu/ehrs/onlinetraining) and in person. Years of training records are maintained in order to satisfy federal, state and local regulations. In addition to training, we offer seminars, workshops, symposia, and other safety related educational activities.

The training courses we provide include:

- Hazard Communication
- Chemical Hygiene
- Infection Control
- Radiation Safety
- Bloodborne and Airborne Pathogen Safety

In FY2018 there were 36 different courses available in our training catalog and over 15,000 individual training sessions were completed in just the top 6 courses.

Emergency Response

EHRS staff receives emergency response training and is capable of responding to emergencies involving (but not limited to) biological, chemical, and/or radioactive hazards. In addressing larger emergencies, EHRS works with commercial emergency responders and with City and County Emergency Management.

EHRS responded to 52 incidents at the University and Health System in FY2018. These incidents involved chemical, biological, or radiological material.

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Calibration of an instrument used to respond to chemical odor complaints.