

RAM Safety Source

All things related to research safety culture at CSU

In This Issue

LRST Update &
Empowering Resources
for Researchers

Safety Champion:
Joanie Ryan
Graduate Student

Safety Consultations are FREE

CSU #1 in Sustainability!

Be a Part of It:
Institutional Memberships

Safety Story: Who Pays When
a Graduate Student Gets
Hurt?

Research Safety Culture Program

e. anthony.appleton@colostate.edu

w. <https://www.research.colostate.edu/research-safety-culture/>

t. [@RamSafeResearch](https://twitter.com/RamSafeResearch)

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Dr. Karen Dobos
Director of Research Integrity
and Compliance Review Office

RICRO **Research Integrity Compliance Review Office**

CSU has a long-standing reputation for ethical conduct of research in all areas and takes pride in the quality and quantity of research performed on its campuses. The mission of the RICRO is to provide assistance to researchers, staff, and the faculty oversight committees in maintaining an ethical environment for activities in the following research and teaching areas:

- Protection of human participants – [Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#)
- Protection of animal subjects – [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\)](#)
- Responsible use of biohazardous agents and rDNA – [Institutional Biosafety Committee \(IBC\)](#)
- [Responsible Conduct of Research \(RCR\)](#)
- [Quality Assurance in Research \(QA\)](#)

Local Research Safety Teams



We are gearing up for Spring 2021 and reflecting on our first semester:

- Speakers from Environmental Health Services, Risk Management & Insurance, Occupational Health, and the Biosafety Office all contributed to monthly discussions.
- The Field Safety Team is actively engaged with a variety of faculty and students in collaboration with EHS and RMI to produce a CSU-wide Field Manual, which even includes a focus on cultural awareness and personal safety.
- Next semester we will be meeting January 19th at 3pm on MS Teams. JOIN US!
- Please check our [webpage](#) to get more information.

Empowering Resources for Researchers

NIH Webinars:

- [Developing a Culture of Safety in Research Training](#)
- [Developing the Right Skills for Your Career](#)
- [How I Got Here: Following Your Own Career Path](#)

ACS Empowering Academic Researchers to Strengthen Safety Culture Workshop:

- The Research Safety Culture Program currently sponsors 14 participants!
- Read more details [here](#).
- Contact the RSCP Coordinator, [Anthony Appleton](#), if you would like to participate in future workshops.



Safety Champion: Joanie Ryan MIP Graduate Student, IBC Intern, & BSO Intern

Studying Mycobacterium TB Extracellular Vesicles in the Kruh-Garcia Lab

I really enjoy working with undergraduate researchers and helping them learn what life sciences research is all about. I live with my wife Kelsey, cat Bonnie, and Cardigan Welsh Corgi Thorin in Longmont. In our spare time, we love taking the dog on adventures, playing games, and watching Netflix documentaries. I strive to make a positive impact on my family, friends, and colleagues in any way that I can. I hope to work in biosafety because I want to support researchers in solving complex world issues, particularly surrounding infectious diseases.



Joanie was instrumental in planning and executing CSU's first Biosafety and Biosecurity Fair. Her dedication to biosafety at CSU shows in everything she does, she is a true Safety Champion.

-Christine M. Johnson
Senior IBC Coordinator

I started to figure out I was interested in biosafety as a career when I went through the Biosafety Level 3 Training here at CSU (with Heather Blair). As it turns out, one of my graduate committee members and mentors is the director of the Research Integrity and Compliance Review Office RICRO (Dr. Karen Dobos). I expressed my interest in biosafety and she helped me secure an internship with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), with the support of my graduate advisor (Dr. Nicole Kruh-Garcia). In that time, I learned a lot about how the IBC at CSU functions, and I got to know the Biosafety Office (BSO) well. After about a year and a half with the IBC, the Biosafety Office reached out about an internship with their group and both my IBC internship supervisor (Christy Johnson) and graduate committee member (Dr. Karen Dobos) supported me shifting into the biosafety office to help further my education for my goal of being part of a biosafety team. Since I started with biosafety in July, I've learned so much and have gotten even more excited about a career in research safety! I also get to continue to work with the IBC regularly, which I am grateful for as my time with the IBC sparked an interest in research compliance that I hadn't thought about before. I hope to help researchers not only do their work safely, but I also hope to help them navigate compliance issues in the most streamlined way possible so they can spend more time on their research.



Do you know someone or a group that should be nominated as a Safety Champion? Let us know by filling out this short survey.

Safety Consultations are FREE!!!

The Research Safety Culture Program (RSCP) is here to assist you in safely and effectively conducting your research at CSU. We always look forward to working with you! Whether you need help onboarding any type of researcher or group of researchers in any area at any level, navigating various compliance units at CSU, proactively engaging with those units, want a safety culture evaluation of your research space/team, new building design or remodeling, the RSCP is here to assist you and your research in a non-punitive way that focuses on improving our positive, proactive research safety culture at CSU. You will be contacted within 24 hours of your submission via this [form](#).



FIRST TO USE THIS SERVICE WAS PROF. SAMBUR & GROUP

Professor Sambur was the FIRST PI to utilize a Safety Service Consultation. And he sent a wonderful email to his group about what was going on: "I have invited an outside member of the CSU community to assess our safety culture and see how it can be improved. The end goal is for everyone to enjoy a safe and clean place to work. If you see a new person (with a beard) walking around the lab, don't be alarmed. **He is here to help out. This is all about working in a safe environment. No one did anything wrong and no one is in trouble (I mean that!).**"

SUSTAINABILITY

Colorado State University ranks as top performer in 2020 Sustainable Campus Index! Original Source article by Joe Giordano [here](#).



CSU Sustainable Campus Index scores

Doctoral Institutions: first place; 88.1% score

Curriculum: first place; 100% score

Public Engagement: third place; 96.6% score

Campus Engagement: fifth place (tie); 98.8% score

Wellbeing & Work: fifth place; 81.7% score

Research: sixth place; 100% score



Investment & Finance: eighth place (tie); 70% score

Coordination & Planning: ninth place (tie); 96.9% score

"Sustainability is in our DNA at Colorado State University," said President Joyce McConnell. "As a land-grant institution, we are committed to conserving our natural world through our research, teaching and engagement across the state and around the globe. This recognition from AASHE is a testament to the incredible efforts of our entire University community, especially the members of our Sustainability Commission, our Student Sustainability Center and the faculty and staff affiliated with CSU's School of Global Environmental Sustainability."

BE PART OF IT

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Benefitting your research and career development, the RSCP has partnered with Green Labs and EHS so that you have access to numerous resources and opportunities in Sustainability and Safety

Interested in the intersection of research safety and sustainability? Contact [Stacey Baumgarn](#) to gain access to numerous resources that engage all stakeholders in advancing the safety and sustainability of laboratories and other high-tech facilities globally. This is the mission for the [International Institute for Sustainable Laboratories \(I2SL\)](#) and a focus of our very own [Green Labs @ CSU](#).



CSU and You are members of *I2SL: International Institute for Sustainable Labs* and *CSHEMA: Campus Safety, Health, & Environmental Management Association*

Interested in Environmental, Health, & Safety in academic settings? Contact [Jim Graham](#) to gain access to all that the [Campus Safety, Health, & Environmental Management Association \(CSHEMA\)](#) has to offer. Join various Communities of Practice, dive into safety resources, or sign-up for a training event with the only organization focused entirely on serving the [EHS](#) needs of higher education.



Safety Story: Who Pays When a Graduate Student Gets Hurt?

A recent [article in Chemical & Engineering News](#) explored this very question and found that complex policies and lack of communication make workers' compensation challenging for U.S. graduate students. The Research Safety Culture Program recently highlighted worker's compensation on our Twitter account, [@RamSafeResearch](#). If you want to know more about your worker's compensation rights:

Number 1: Please consult with your supervisor, as well as [Risk Management & Insurance](#). Please be aware of and appropriately use [Incident Reporting Tools](#).

Number 2: Please consult with [Workers' Compensation](#). The Workers' Compensation team works cooperatively with a variety of resources to assist in the prevention of injuries and managing them when they occur.



Do you have an idea or would like to contribute to the RAM Safety Source?

Please contact

anthony.appleton@colostate.edu



COVID-19 RECOVERY

“For safety is not a gadget but a state of mind.”
– Eleanor Everet