

# UC Regents Settlement Agreement

## Background

On December 29, 2008, UCLA research associate Sheherbano (Sheri) Sangji was in the process of transferring a highly flammable chemical agent (*tert*-butyllithium), a pyrophoric chemical that ignites when exposed to the atmosphere). While conducting the transfer, the pyrophoric agent spilled onto her hands, arms, and torso; and ignited. Sangji was not wearing a laboratory coat, and suffered burns. She died from injuries on January 16, 2009.

## Settlement

The Los Angeles District Attorney filed a complaint alleging three felony violations against the Regents of the University of California ("UC Regents"). On July 27, 2012 the UC Regents signed an agreement accepting responsibility. The terms of the settlement apply to any laboratory facilities within the departments of Biochemistry and Chemistry.

## UCSB Laboratory Safety Manual and Chemical Hygiene Plan

These documents are intended to be the cornerstone of your safety program and are designed to aid faculty, staff, and students to better manage the risk and mitigate the hazard to maintain a safe environment to teach and conduct research. Each laboratory using hazardous materials is required to have a copy of this Manual readily available to all laboratory personnel. Each laboratory worker must be familiar with the contents of the Manual and the procedures for obtaining additional safety information needed to perform their duties safely. This Manual consists of these parts:

The following are located on the [website for Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry](#):

- Introduction
- [Sec. I: Laboratory-specific Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) (w/o lab-specific SOPs)
- [Sec. Ia: Already existing generic SOPs](#) that a research group can adopt/modify
- [Sec. II: UCSB Policies, Procedures & Resources](#)
- [Sec. III: Regulatory Framework](#)
- The written departmental [Injury and Illness Prevention Program](#)

The following are not fully developed as of this date. For the short-term these will probably reside in binders in each research group. Eventually, these will be transferred to an electronic format for storage/searching, etc.

- Laboratory-specific Standard Operating Procedures for chemicals listed in the Settlement

## Responsibilities

The following information was derived from the [UC Regents / Los Angeles District Attorney Executed Agreement](#) ("UC Regents Agreement").

- **Supervisors / Principal Investigators**

<b>Training</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Laboratory Safety training (online training under development)</li> <li>2. Ensure Laboratory Personnel complete Laboratory Safety training</li> </ol>
<b>Policies and Procedures</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Ensure the <a href="#">Laboratory Safety Manual</a> is in a visible location (and includes the Chemical Hygiene Plan and SOPs)</li> <li>4. Develop and approve Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for any chemical on the <a href="#">Chemical Classification List</a></li> <li>5. Ensure SOPs have been reviewed by Qualified Personnel.</li> <li>6. Sign SOPs (and ensure Laboratory Personnel sign SOPs)</li> <li>7. Maintain SOPs in the Laboratory Safety Manual (if applicable, this includes safe use of pyrophoric liquids)</li> </ol>
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Complete a PPE Assessment Certification</li> <li>9. <i>Ensure PPE is being: A) Worn by all who occupy the laboratory area, and B) Decontaminated before leaving the laboratory (if in contact with hazardous materials)</i></li> </ol>
<b>Injuries / Illnesses</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Report any (recordable) injuries / illnesses to EH&amp;S. Per the Settlement, this needs to be done immediately and the incident scene secured.</li> </ol>

- **Laboratory Personnel**

<b>Training</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Laboratory Safety training (Completed for 1<sup>st</sup> year grad students. For other lab workers and faculty, online training is pending)</li> </ol>
<b>Policies and Procedures</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Sign SOPs</li> </ol>
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Wear appropriate PPE while occupying the laboratory area and Decontaminate clothing (in contact with hazardous materials) before leaving the laboratory</i></li> </ol>
<b>Injuries/Illnesses</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Report all work injuries/illnesses to Supervisor/PI</li> </ol>

## **For more information**

**Timeline** Deliverable time frames, responsible parties, and due dates.

**UCOP Sharepoint**: Official and latest information, presentations, and documents from the University of California Office of the President. Open to all in the University of California system.

## **Statements**

[Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs, Aimee Dorr](#)

[Chief Risk Officer, Grace Crickette](#)

[Vice Chancellor of Research Mike Witherell and Associate Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services Ron Cortez](#)