



UNC
HEALTH CARE

**Report to the Medical Staff of the Executive Committee
Personnel and Environmental Safety Subcommittee
2009 Annual Report**

The committee continues to review all safety policies on a two year rotation. A total of 32 policies were reviewed in 2009.

EH&S conducted environmental monitoring throughout the year including scheduled environmental monitoring for glutaraldehyde, ethylene oxide, noise, volatile organic compounds, xylene, and waste anesthetic gases and results were within recommended guidelines or OSHA limits except in the following areas. Formaldehyde air monitoring was conducted during grossing, organ disposal, conference, and autopsy at the hospital morgue in the Brinkhous-Bullitt Building. A total of 33 samples were collected on six employees. These samples were analyzed by an AIHA accredited laboratory. Formaldehyde concentrations in three of six samples collected during organ disposal tasks were in excess of OSHA's short-term exposure limit (STEL: 2 ppm). The other three samples collected during organ disposal were above the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienist's (ACGIH) guidance limit (Threshold Limit Value TLV-0.3 ppm). Formaldehyde concentrations in six samples collected on three employees conducting grossing tasks were above the ACGIH's TLV. All other exposure results were below the STEL and TLV. Recommendations on control measures and procedures to reduce exposure and for compliance with OSHA's Formaldehyde Standard were provided.

Several areas were investigated for indoor air quality concerns, all within normal parameters except for the following. A mold assessment was conducted in the Radiology Department. A leaking toilet in a nearby bathroom had caused water damage and visible mold growth. Mold testing revealed significant microbial amplification. The leak was repaired and the mold was abated. A mold assessment was conducted in the ID Clinic office area following moisture intrusion caused by leaking windows along the west wall of the APCF. Water damage and visible mold growth was observed in offices 182 through 187. Mold testing revealed significant microbial amplification. The mold and water damage has been abated. An Indoor Air Quality assessment was conducted for McLendon Laboratories in the QM Office suite, following occupant complaints of persistent upper respiratory irritation. Exposed areas of fiberglass insulation were noted on the air supply diffusers in this area. Ultrafine particle monitoring identified this insulation as a potential source of air contamination. The insulation was subsequently removed.