February 26, 2015

To: Biosafety Permit holders, Laboratory Supervisors, Biosafety Committee, Associate Deans (Research) for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Engineering and Kinesiology

This message is being sent on behalf of Andre Buret, Associate Vice-President (Research)

In April of last year, I wrote to you about the steps we were taking to integrate the Biosafety Permit system (BioLogistix) into the existing software suite, Chematix. We initiated this project primarily in response to an increasing demand on institutions across the country to provide new, enhanced biosafety permit managing systems.

Given the continual growth in permit handling, I was very clear about my expectations for this initiative – implement a system positioned to enable us to meet both the regulatory needs of today and tomorrow while consuming the least amount of time possible for you, the research community.

I have heard from many of you that your permit renewal took under five minutes - this is a testament to the project team who worked close to 1,500 hours in an effort to protect research time. Overall, this was a significant investment made by the university and I’d like to share with you some of the project highlights:

• Rather than making each of you or your lab managers validate the data transfer, the University Biosafety Officer confirmed each line item on the permit on your behalf.

• Additional resources were allocated during the annual renewal process: e.g. the Chair and the University Biosafety Officer were fiercely committed to expeditiously reviewing and authorizing permits. Also, multiple drop-in sessions were offered at Main and Foothills Campuses for one-on-one assistance.

• Within the first two days of the renewal process, we revised the instructions after some users experienced a stall in progress. The change ensured that the vast majority of researchers benefitted from a smoother renewal process.

• We solicited ideas from the research community that were critical to our success e.g. providing researchers with easy access to Biosafety Permits and automatically forwarding them to Research Services Office.

Last, a word of thanks to the project team and research community for your commitment and cooperation.

If you have further comments, please contact me at aburet@ucalgary.ca

Andre Buret
Associate Vice-President (Research)
403.220.7016 | aburet@ucalgary.ca