Viruses: Threats and Opportunities and General IH/Safety Topics

Agenda Producer: Garlen Yeager, Jr., MPH, CIH, CSP
Principle Safety Specialist
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

8:30-9:00 Sign In

9:00-10:15 Hardwired Inhibitions: Hidden Forces that Keeps us Silent in the Face of Disaster/Accidents/Unsafe Work Practices
Phillip Ragain, the RAD Group
There are a surprising number of forces that inhibit people in the moment when they should speak up to stop something that is unsafe. This presentation gives an overview of the more significant but often overlooked psychological and societal factors that suppress safety interventions and provides first steps for overcoming these inhibiting forces.

10:15-10:45 Maintaining Indoor Air Quality during Building Implosion
Linette M. Leadon, MS, SM (NRCM), CSP, Director Environmental Health and Safety
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ms. Leadon will describe the means, methods, purpose, and results of maintaining and evaluating Indoor Air Quality during the implosion of a high rise building in close proximity the main hospital and ambulatory care treatment centers. The study evaluated airborne levels of particulate, asbestos fibers, and mold before, during, and after the implosion.

10:45-12:15 Viral Vectors-Overview of Health and Safety Hazards and Research Applications
Marivonne Rodriguez, MS, SM(NCRM), CBSP, Safety Specialist, Laboratory Safety, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Ms. Rodriguez will provide a review of the uses of viral vectors in research and medical applications. Her presentation includes the common viral vectors used in research, the health risks, safe handling ion the laboratory, clean up and reporting requirements.

12:15-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Overview of the Clinical Applications of Viral Vectors
Shailbala Singh, DVM, PhD, DACVM (Virology)
Research Scientist, Department of Medical Oncology
Dr. Singh will provide an overview of the clinical applications of Viral Vectors including: The history, development, and discoveries associated with the clinical applications of viral vectors; Safety concerns regarding the use and manipulations; Clinical applications, success stories, promising discoveries and potential future developments.
2:00-2:30  West Nile Virus Detection in Avian Serum using Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)

Lauren Wilkerson, MS, Harris County Public Health
Ms. Wilkerson will describe the importance of surveillance for West Nile Virus, means, methods, results of the study, and potential impact on the Public Health of Harris and Surrounding counties. She will also describe Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) and its applications in identifying DNA.

2:30-3:00  A Year in Review:  Kissing Bug and Tick Surveillance at Harris County Health Mosquito and Vector Control

Kyndall Dye-Braumuller, MS, Harris County Public Health Department
Chagas disease is an infection caused by a protozoan parasite (Trypanosoma cruzi) that can result in acute inflammatory skin changes (chagomas) and may eventually cause infection and inflammation of many other body tissues, especially those of the heart and intestinal tract. Ms. Dye-Braumuller will describe the Harris County Health Department’s Surveillance program for Chagas and other mosquito/tick borne illnesses.

3:00-3:15  Break

3:15-3:45  Mosquito Population Dynamics during Disaster Events in Harris County TX 2001-2017

Martin Reyna Nava, MS Technical Operations Manager, Medical Entomologist, Mosquito and Vector Control Division, Harris County Public Health Department
Mr. Nava will present an overview of mosquito surveillance and population control measures conducted in in Harris County during 2001-2017.

3:45-4:15  Insecticide Resistance in Mosquitos in Harris County

Elain Chu, BS Entomology, Texas A&M University
Ms. Chu will an overview and description of the process in which the Health Department conducts Mosquito Surveillance, including trapping techniques, laboratory methods for bio assay and analysis, and results of insecticide resistance among the study population.

For additional information about the GHIHC, please visit https://is.gd/swcoehce and navigate to the posted upcoming meeting.