

# Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## LBL Publications

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## Life Sciences Division

# BioRhythms

November-December 1996

### OPA Awards

Five employees received Outstanding Performance Awards at the October 18th Life Sciences Division meeting. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge significant one-time achievements of employees in pursuit and accomplishment of Labwide objectives. Each recipient is given a singular payment for a noteworthy contribution that led to an improved process, either scientifically or administratively, or demonstrated leadership and success in pursuing the Laboratory's institutional goals. Kudos to **Kathleen Bjornstad, Cynthia Long, Katalin Markowitz, Alicia Sheppard, and Valerie Weaver.**

\* \* \* \* \*  
 LSD Administrative Staff  
 Holiday Luncheon Monday  
 Dec. 16th from 11:45 to  
 2:30 at Skates on the Bay!  
 \* \* \* \* \*

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### Overhead Rates Are Down In FY97!

by Mary Worth

It's official. Effective 10/1/96, DOE has approved reduced overhead rates as proposed and submitted by the Laboratory's Chief Financial Officer. The reductions were made possible by a number of cost-cutting measures undertaken over the past two years in various overhead units, combined with increases in program funding in areas such as NERSC, Earth Sciences, and yes, Life Sciences! The forecast for outyears is favorable as well. These lower rates will be used in all proposals submitted effective immediately.

|                       | FY96 RATE | FY97 RATE |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Site Support          | 29.3%     | 26.0%     |
| G&A                   | 20.7%     | 19.0%     |
| Material Handling     | 4.8%      | 4.6%      |
| Procurement           | 4.0%      | 4.2%      |
| Space (sq. meters/yd) | \$37.40   | \$38.40   |
| Payroll Burden        | 41.5%     | 41.0%     |

### NEW ANIMAL CARE RATES APPROVED

The FY97 animal care rates have been approved effective 10/1/96. The rate increases are the first in over two years. From FY94-FY96, while the Laboratory's overhead rates were being restructured, Division Director Mina Bissell held the animal care rates constant in an effort to minimize the impact on research programs.

|         | FY96 RATE | FY97 RATE |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Mice    | \$0.191   | \$0.198   |
| Rats    | \$0.573   | \$0.593   |
| Rabbits | \$2.619   | \$2.900   |
| Dogs    | \$8.333   | \$8.832   |

### NEW LIMIT FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT DEFINITION

DOE has determined that for accounting purposes, the capital equipment threshold has been increased from \$5K to \$25K. That means that items under \$25K will be considered as non-capital equipment and must therefore be purchased from operating funds. Remember that we now have the ability to transfer DOE funds between operating and equipment (in either direction).

For more details, contact your Budget Specialist.

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 Page 1

# ***Environmental Health and Safety***

by Tony Linard

## **Management of Hazardous Waste-The Challenge:**

The proper and accurate characterization of hazardous, radioactive, and mixed waste and its constituent elements continues to be one of the most critical EH&S issues for the Life Sciences Division. The complex nature of the wastes we generate, many of which are toxic/carcinogenic, flammable/explosive, corrosive, reactive, radioactive and/or biohazardous, dictate that waste management remain an important and complex subject for LSD. Our present efforts are directed towards working with the Waste Management Group of EH&S Division to devise a system that works for all of us.

During 1996, the EH&S Division has undertaken significant efforts to assure division-wide training for Hazardous, Radioactive, and Mixed Waste Generators that involved six building-specific sessions. New procedures were outlined in the Guidelines for Generators of Hazardous Waste at LBNL. Two hundred fifty employees were successfully trained in these areas.

## **Chipping to Non-recognition of Perceived Medical Waste:**

EH&S Division will soon begin to operate a plastics chipper for "perceived medical waste" (i.e. waste which has no evident hazard, but might appear to the public to be biohazardous). Although this activity will be done at the Hazardous Waste Handling Facility, you will soon begin to see new waste containers for such items (petri dishes, pipettes, etc.). This should significantly reduce the division's biohazardous waste stream.

## **Decay-in-place of Short Half-lived Radioactive Materials:**

The promotion of a program to decay-in-place short-lived radioactive isotopes remains a strong interest to the Life Sciences Division. The objective of this program would be to treat as non-radioactive all materials which no longer display activity above background level. Current Department of Energy policy, in reaction to the needs of the nuclear energy generation industry, reflects a "once-radioactive, always radioactive" attitude which is not consistent with the sound management of short half-lived radioactivity.

## **Radioactive and Mixed Waste Reduction Efforts:**

Based upon LBNL EH&S Performance Summary for April through June of 1996, the Life Sciences Division accounted for 74.4% of the radioactive waste and 62.0% of the mixed waste generated. It is for this reason that the division is particularly eager to participate in and

(Awarded—from page 3)

***Congratulations to the following employees!***

Kelly Bentz  
Martin Boswell  
Sandra Chinchilla  
Jo Ann Chow  
Ann Clark  
Margie Dere  
Patricia Donohue  
Amy Edney  
Martha Franklin  
Phyllis Gale  
Kathryn Galinis  
Carol Gilbert  
David Gilbert  
Jackie Iler  
Vicky Jared  
William Johansen  
Hilma Johnsen  
Jerry Kekos  
Tony Linard  
Crystal Llewellyn-Silva  
Janice Mann  
Shauna McDonough  
Faye Mitschang  
Mischelle Merritt  
Sandra Mocco  
Gail Mosley  
Kevin Peet  
Joyce Pfeiffer  
Yolanda Reyna  
Cathy Sage  
Karen Springsteen  
Adele Sylar  
Andrea Thompson  
Jeanne Turturice

**DESPERATELY  
SEEKING IDEAS  
(for the newsletter!)  
HAVE ANY? SEND  
THEM TO  
degilbert@lbl.gov**

**~ or ~**

**jlmann@lbl.gov**

(the new editor of *BioRhythms*)

(See EH&S-page 3)

## CEB Forum

The speakers for the months of November and December are Juliette Rooney Varga, Clement Walsh, Maria Pallavicini, Murray Moo-Young, Patrick Williams, and Mitchell Sogin. For information on schedules and locations, please access:

<http://www-esd.lbl.gov/CEB/CEB-Speakers.html>

(EH&S-from page 2)

garner improvements from the Mixed and Radioactive Waste Reduction Plan process flow analysis.

With this in mind, the reduction of use of radioactive materials has been the goal of both the 1995 mixed Waste and 1996 Radioactive Waste Reduction Programs. Our wholehearted thanks to Dr. Li-Yang Chang of the EH&S Division for his efforts on both of these vital efforts. Many thanks are also owed to the many members of the Life Sciences staff who have given us their time and efforts. They have provided a valuable contribution to the environment, as well as making the waste management task more manageable.

**KEEP UP THE  
GOOD WORK!**



**Labwide Annual  
Holiday Party  
Tuesday Dec. 10  
at 3:30  
Cafeteria**



## AWARDED ON THE SPOT!

SPOT awards totaling \$4,100 were recently given to 34 Life Sciences employees in recognition of their achievements in the areas of customer service, cost savings, environmental health and safety, and organizational effectiveness. Deputy Head Aloke Chatterjee presented the awards to a pleasantly surprised but highly enthusiastic crowd of administrative staff.

The SPOT recognition and award program was established by the Laboratory this past year and offers cash awards of \$50, \$100, or \$150 to eligible employees (all current employees, except represented nonexempt technical employees due to collective bargaining talks between UC and UPTE). The purpose of the program is to recognize and reward individuals and/or team members for outstanding efforts that clearly support the Laboratory's Total Quality Management efforts.

(See Awards-Page 2)

## Welcome New and Returning Colleagues!

Life Sciences community extends a hearty welcome to the following new employees:

|                         |                              |              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Isabelle Auffray        | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 74     |
| Shutao Cai              | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Cecilia Chavez          | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 64     |
| David Cleveland         | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 46     |
| Daniel Farfan           | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 74     |
| Monica Finnegan         | Radiation Biology            | Bldg. 74     |
| Sanjeev Galande         | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Jennifer Huber          | Molecular & Nuclear Medicine | Bldg. 55     |
| Nathaniel Hunt          | Subcellular Structure        | Donner Bldg. |
| Vicky Jared             | Administration               | Donner Bldg. |
| William Johansen        | Director's Office            | Bldg. 83     |
| Maureen Kenna           | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Kwang Kim               | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 74     |
| Cynthia Ko              | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 74     |
| Yoshinori Kohwi         | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Terumi Kohwi-Shigematsu | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Sophie Le Lievre        | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 83     |
| Michael Lomotan         | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 74     |
| Michelle Miller         | Radiation Biology            | Bldg. 70A    |
| Dominic Ng              | Molecular & Nuclear Medicine | Bldg. 74     |
| Wataru Nunomura         | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 74     |
| Rebecca Rishell         | Director's Office            | Bldg. 83     |
| Janet Stultz            | Human Genome Center          | Bldg. 64     |
| Bu-er Wang              | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |
| Claudia Wiese           | Radiation Biology            | Bldg. 70A    |
| Jianzhong Zhang         | Cancer Biology               | Bldg. 70A    |

## Life Sciences Division Seminars

4:00 PM

5, 1996

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Joseph Loscalz

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University School of Medicine,

"Nitric Oxide and Platelet Function"

Host - Ronald Krauss

## Funding Opportunities

A call has been issued for **DOE'S 1997 Alexander Hollaender Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**. This prestigious program was established in 1986 in memory of the late Dr. Alexander Hollaender and funds many of DOE's biomedical research projects. The fellowships provide a \$37,500 first year and a \$40,500 second year stipend aimed at supporting the mission of the DOE Office of Health and Environmental Research (OHER). OHER's research mission includes the study of atmospheric, marine, and terrestrial systems; molecular and subcellular mechanisms underlying human somatic genetic processes; nuclear medicine; structural biology; and development of instrumentation necessary to achieve programmatic success.

To be eligible, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien and have received a doctoral degree after April 30, 1995. The prospective sponsoring research advisor must currently be funded by OHER in the amount of at least \$150,000 per year with funding continuing throughout the anticipated tenure of the fellow.

Completed applications and supporting materials must be received by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education before January 15, 1997. Fellowship offers will be made in May 1997, with expected start dates between May 1 and September 30, 1997.

For more information, application material, or a report summarizing Berkeley Lab's OHER research, please contact David Gilbert at x6096 or at [degilbert@lbl.gov](mailto:degilbert@lbl.gov). A national overview of the OHER programs can be found at <http://www.er.doe.gov/production/oher>.

The **France-Berkeley Fund (FBF)**, which was established in 1993 by the University of California at Berkeley and the French Embassy in the U.S., is requesting the submission of proposals to the organization. The Fund is aimed at providing "seed money" for new projects involving young scholars. FBF

will consider projects jointly submitted by a professor or researcher at Berkeley and a professor or researcher affiliated with a French public research institution. The award cannot be used to pay for release time for faculty and cannot, in general, be used to purchase equipment. All projects will be funded to a maximum limit of \$10,000 per year. If you have an interest in submitting a proposal, please contact Phyllis Gale at x6618 or Jerry Kekos at x6889.



UC Office of the President has issued a call for applications for Cycle III of the **Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP)**. The mechanisms for funding include Innovative Development and Exploratory (IDEA) Awards (Types I and II); Postdoctoral Fellowships Awards, Sabbatical Awards, Request for Applications (RFA-new); Community-initiated Research Collaboration Pilot Award (new), and the Translational Research Collaboration Pilot Award (new). NOT available in Cycle III are the New Investigator and Training Grants. The BCRP has made substantial changes in both the research priorities and the support mechanisms. The application forms have also changed. Contact Jerry Kekos at x6889 to receive copies of the call and the application forms.

The BCRP program staff have offered to host informational meetings on an as-requested basis. If you are interested in a this type of a meeting, please contact Phyllis Gale at x6618. Depending on the interest, a meeting may be held in November.

