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NIOSH Publishes Occupational Safety and Health Resources

On 15 March, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) announced the release of a manual and a companion site on its web page to help employers determine the effectiveness of their actions to improve occupational safety and health in their workplaces¹. This development may be important for animal care personnel because injuries similar to those described in these resources are common in laboratory animal facilities.

The manual, "Does It Really Work? How to Evaluate Safety and Health Changes in the Workplace," advises employers to improve safety in the workplace by following four simple steps: forming a team; collecting data; analyzing the data; and sharing the results. The manual is easy-to-read and includes case studies of evaluations of interventions intended to reduce serious work-related injuries.

The companion web page (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-135>) presents the manual in an interactive format. It includes links to individual case studies, suggested steps for evaluating changes, and forms and surveys that can be used in assessments.

The Intervention Effectiveness Team under the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA), which included representatives from NIOSH, industry, labor, and academia, developed these resources as part of NIOSH's effort to translate research findings into practice in workplaces to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.

References

1. NIOSH. Guidance for Assessing Safety, Health Fixes is Offered by NIOSH Through Web Site, Manual. (15 March 2004). <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/updates/upd-03-15-04.html>.

Regulation Updates

CORDIS Launches Security Research Service

The European Community's Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) has recently launched a new service for security research². In February, the European Commission proposed the creation of a Security Research Preparatory Action "to advance European security through research and technology²." The main aim of this communication is "to assess the need for a further initiative that will complement and liaise with existing and future intergovernmental schemes; be open to all [European Union (EU)] members and operate on the basis of Community principles; and contribute to bridging the current gap between generic civil research (as supported by EC Framework Programs) and national and intergovernmental programs oriented to defense procurement needs²." The CORDIS web-site (<http://www.cordis.lu/security>) includes daily updates on security research issues in the EU.

UK to Develop a National Center on Alternative Methods

According to a 26 February report in the UK newspaper *The Guardian*, Lord Sainsbury, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation for the UK's Department of Trade and Industry, reported that his office would soon announce plans for developing a national center for replacement, reduction, and refinement of animal experiments³. This follows the October 2003 plan of the British Parliament to devote resources to alternative methods. It remains to be determined whether the new center will be free standing or be a part of an existing organization.

AAALAC Reorganizes Council Along Geographic Lines

On 8 March, the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), announced it has reorganized its Council on Accreditation into North American and European Sections⁴. The European Section, which will be based in AAALAC's Brussels office will conduct site visits to European organizations applying for or renewing their accreditation. The North American Section, which will continue to operate out of AAALAC's Executive Office in Rockville, MD, will conduct site visits in the United States, Canada, and other international locations.

2. CORDIS Guidance. CORDIS launches security research service. (23 March 2004). http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=289482004-4-9&DOC=1&TBL=EN_NEWS&RCN=EN_RCN_ID:21782&CALLER=WN_HOME_EN.
3. Adam, D. Centre to cut down on animal research. *The Guardian* (26 February 2004).
4. AAALAC International. AAALAC International forms European and North American Sections of the Council on Accreditation. (8 March 2004). <http://www.aaalac.org/pr030804.htm>.