Date: June 14, 2012

To: New York Campus Environmental Resource (NYCER) Members

From: Howard Apsan

Re: NYCER Meeting Minutes
Columbia University’s Russ Berrie Medical Science Pavilion, June 12, 2012

Opening
The June NYCER meeting was held in Columbia University on June 12th, 2012. The meeting was hosted by Kathleen Crowley, the Associate Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety for Columbia University. G. Michael Purdy, Executive Vice President for Research at Columbia University also welcomed the group and emphasized the importance of networking and collaboration. Jennifer Long of CUNY Environmental, Health, Safety and Risk Management recorded the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by acclamation. NYCER members are encouraged to visit http://www.cuny.edu/nycer for information and updates about NYCER.

College Updates
Hurricane Season Warning
Hurricane season is upon us and lasts from June 1st to November 1st. This is especially critical for any New York campuses or hospitals that serve as evacuation centers, hurricane shelters and special medical needs shelters, or that may have to be evacuated.

Student Protest
There was a reminder that student protest activity may increase in the warmer weather. NYCER members were urged to be aware of and safeguard against violent student protest and the potential impact. NYCER members were also encouraged to share information and experiences through the NYCER e-mail list.

SEHSA Biosafety Webinar
The State Environmental Health and Safety Association of New York, Inc. (SEHSA) conducted a biosafety webinar on Tuesday, June 12th. The webinar discussed risk assessments for handling microbes and control strategies to address those risks.

NYCER members also discussed the recent E. coli outbreak, where a particular strain of E. coli...
infected 14 people in 6 different states and resulted in one reported fatality. The cause of the outbreak was still under investigation. Common sources of E. coli are found in meats, poultry, fruits, vegetables, and unpasteurized/raw milk. NYCER members are reminded to encourage proper food handling, food temperature, personal hygiene and vermin control procedures in their campus dining facilities.

Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board Panel
Christopher Pettinato, Environmental Health and Safety Director, Columbia University, informed NYCER members that there has been a poor response to the distributed surveys for the development of a panel discussion with the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). The survey will be modified and re-distributed. Chris encouraged NYCER members to share this revised survey and CSB information among respective research laboratory and safety personnel.

FDNY Code Revision
Kurt Klein, Health and Safety Manager at CUNY, compiled suggestions for the FDNY Code revisions from NYCER members and submitted them to the FDNY for review after the March NYCER meeting.

Presentation
The meeting continued with a presentation by Paul Nadel, Regional Program Director, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, New York State Department of Health, on “Management of Controlled Substances in Research.” Paul discussed the New York State standards and rules (under Public Health Law Article 33) for the distribution, dispensing, administration, possession, abandonment and disposal of controlled substances, specifically in a research setting. Paul stressed the importance of proper disposal of controlled substances, good recordkeeping and licensing.

For further information and a list of reverse distributors, NYCER members may visit www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/ and email comments and questions to narcotic@health.state.ny.us. We thank Paul for his informative presentation.

Upcoming Meetings
Rockefeller University has agreed to host the upcoming NYCER meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM in Room 301 of the Weiss Research Building. Visit http://www.rockefeller.edu/about/directions/ for directions to the campus. Ira Tannenbaum, Director of Public/Private Initiatives, New York City Office of Emergency Management, will provide a presentation on “Emergency Preparedness: Building Resilience.”

An additional NYCER 2012 meeting is scheduled for December 11th. We encourage suggestions for future topics and guest speakers and any other requests you may have be forwarded to Jennifer at jennifer.long@mail.cuny.edu.

Columbia University will host its 12th Annual Hazardous Waste RCRA Training on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 in the Hammer Health Sciences Center at 701 West 168th Street, Room 401, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.