Q&A Session for Resumption of On-Site Research Activities – June 2, 2021

Q: Is there any way to muffle the Venting sound of the liquid nitrogen on the 2nd floor?
A: To the knowledge of Bob Jackson, there is nothing that can be done. The pressure must be vented and released, thus causing the loud noise. Mitch will look online to see if there are any adjustments/mufflers that can be added to decrease the loud noise. If there is something available, it will be brought to the attention of Facilities before it is implemented. We need to be sure it will not affect the normal venting operation.

Q: When will refrigerators and microwaves be allowed in the IRP?
A: The Oversight Committee has not yet made a ruling on this. While we are sympathetic to the inconvenience of this, this is up to the Committee to make the call. Please know that this is being considered and as soon as a decision is made regarding the use of these appliances it will be communicated to all affected.

Q: While working in the labs, do we still need to adhere to the 3ft social distancing if all are fully vaccinated?
A: If the entire lab is fully vaccinated, and is 2 weeks after the 2nd vaccine, and wears the proper PPE (mask/gloves, etc), then the 3ft rule can be relaxed.

Q: When can we begin in person lab meetings in our conference rooms instead of via Zoom?
A: This is tricky as all lab members need to be fully vaccinated and 2 weeks post the last vaccine dose along with masks and proper PPE. Room capacity must still be adhered to so most likely there is not enough space in the small conference rooms to accommodate this. Therefore, we cannot let our guard down. Infection rates are declining and things are moving in the right direction, but we are not quite there yet. Please be patient.

Q: What is being done about the empty tanks and new dry ice machines?
A: We are aggressively seeking information from the vendor as to why the tanks are only ½ full when we receive them. The vendor will provide a tank or two to make up for the shortages. Vince Butera is also seeking other options as we need to get what we are paying for. It is also recommended that when dry ice is needed to plan ahead and not wait to the last minute. Spare/extra tanks in other locations are being sought. As with the implementation of all new systems, we will work out the bugs. It will take patience and some time.

Until the next meeting, if you have any questions/concerns or issue, please reach out to Dr. Kaplan’s office directly.