



**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**

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## SAFETY IN THE NEWS!

A powerful **explosion** occurred last March in University of Hawaii science lab, when a postdoctoral fellow was transferring gases into a low pressure gas cylinder to be used as bacterial growth medium. Few days before, the student conducted the same experiment and noticed a small internal explosion, but it went unaddressed. The researcher lost her arm in the accident, which also caused severe damage to the building.

**Always remember to report accidents regardless of the impact, avoid working alone and after hours, and be aware of the risks associated with the materials you are working with!**



Picture from Hawaii News Now

## How can others know what are in the beakers if they are unlabeled?

Labeling the containers can significantly reduce chemical hazards due to mishandling. Labels should include name of material contained, potential hazards, and date.



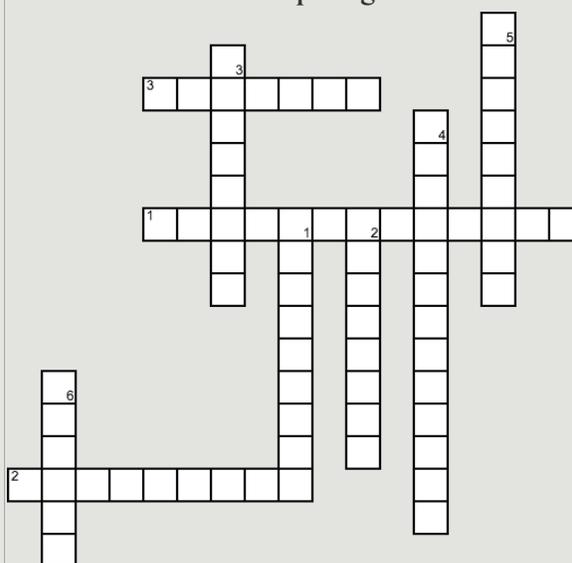
## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE OF THE MONTH: DICHLOROMETHANE (METHYLENE CHLORIDE)



Dichloromethane (DCM) is a volatile, colorless liquid with a chloroform-like odor. The predominant means of exposure to DCM is inhalation and skin exposure. OSHA considers methylene chloride to be a **potential occupational carcinogen**. Short-term exposures to high concentrations may cause mental confusion, lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, and headache. Continued exposure may also **cause eye and respiratory tract irritation**. Skin exposure to liquid methylene chloride may cause **irritation or chemical burns**.

## CONTEST!

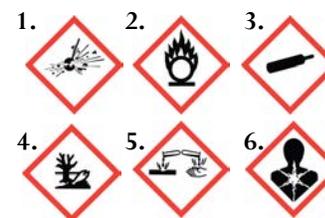
What kind of hazards are indicated by the new Occupational Safety and Health Administration pictograms?



Across:



Down:



**A surprise gift and a t-shirt will be awarded** to the first 2 students/ lab staff and first PI to respond. Email your responses to [ssc@bme.ufl.edu](mailto:ssc@bme.ufl.edu)

## HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR ANNUAL TRAINING?

All University of Florida personnel who work with hazardous chemicals are required to have annual training covering the management of their hazardous waste.

To complete the training, go to: [mytraining.hr.ufl.edu](http://mytraining.hr.ufl.edu) and use course code: **UF\_EHS809\_OLT**



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Email us with any BME safety questions, concerns, or suggestions at:

[SSC@BME.UFL.EDU](mailto:SSC@BME.UFL.EDU)

## OUR MEMBERS

**Kaiyuan Jiang** - PhD student, Stabler lab  
**Nikunj Agrawal** - PhD student, Schmidt lab  
**Jiapu Liang** - PhD student, Stabler lab  
**Shaheen Farhadi** - MS student, Hudalla lab  
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**Jackson Cagle** - Undergraduate, Ding lab  
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