



IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T “HERD”



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Stephen R. Larson, M.S., CSP, CIH, RBP Director of Environmental Health and Safety

The Department of Public and Environmental Safety is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Stephen R. Larson as the new Director of Environmental Health & Safety for Tufts University. Steve served as the Senior Manager of Environmental Health & Safety Services at The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME, and was responsible for Radiation Safety, Biosafety, Chemical Hygiene and Emergency Preparedness. For the past 15 years, Steve has served as the Principal Industrial Hygiene Instructor at the New England OSHA Training Institute, Keene State College in Manchester, NH.

Steve is an experienced professional with a broad employment, educational and teaching background in the safety profession. He has achieved recognition as a Certified Safety Professional, Certified Industrial Hygienist and a Registered Biosafety Professional, and is a member of numerous professional associations. He has a broad background in the safety

profession and many highlights to his career. Among these are: previously serving as the Director of Occupational & Environmental Health at the University of New Hampshire, and the Director of Environmental Health & Safety at Northeastern University. Earlier in his career, Steve held positions with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as a Radiation Control Officer and as a Technical Advisor/Liaison for Chemical, Nuclear & Radiological Emergency Preparedness.

Steve received his M.S. in Environmental Health (Industrial Hygiene), from the University of Iowa, College of Medicine, and his B.A. in Microbiology from the University of New Hampshire, Department of Microbiology. He previously completed all required coursework towards a Master's in Education, specializing in Training and Human Resources Development, at the University of Massachusetts, College of Education.

Steve joined the Tufts EH&S Team on March 23, 2009, and his

primary office location is on the Boston campus at Posner Hall. His first impression of Tufts was that “everyone in the Tufts community that I have met in person, by telephone or email has been welcoming, supportive, energetic, competent and demanding. In this case, demanding is good because the customers of our services want those services delivered in a thorough, accurate, timely and positive manner.” When asked about his vision for the department he said, “EHS will continue to be an important contributor to both determining and achieving the mission and values of Tufts University. EHS staff can assist each employee, student, visitor and neighbor of Tufts University in returning to their families each day as healthy as or healthier than when they arrive. Similarly, EHS staff can assist each employee, student and visitor in performing their activities while protecting the environment of the campuses and the surrounding communities. The EHS Office is a resource for the entire Tufts community”

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Before there were fume hoods...there was Carl Scheele By Stephen Larson, EH&S Director

Few recognize the name Scheele as a founder of chemistry in the 1700s. Carl Scheele (Sweden) (b.1742) was a self taught pharmacist and experimentalist. Isaac Asimov called him “hard luck Scheele” because others often took credit for his discoveries. He purified and processed such elements and compounds as oxygen, arsenic, chlorine, cyanide, hydrogen sulfide and hydrogen fluoride.

He also developed a habit of tasting his reactants and products. He died from the inhalation and ingestion of these materials at the age of 43. He, his family, science and humanity would have benefited if he followed good laboratory practices:

1. use a fume hood when handling highly toxic chemicals;
2. work in areas where there are 8 to 10 air changes per hour;
3. do not eat or drink in the laboratory;
4. do not ingest toxic or corrosive chemicals



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Hard Luck Scheele