

6th and 7th floor Occupants, Medical Science Building

1 King's College Circle MSB, Toronto, M5S 1A8

March 15th, 2017

To whomever it may concern,

We are writing to notify the occurrence of multiple asbestos exposure incidences on the 6th and 7th floor, Medical Science Building over the past two months. Due to these incidences, lab members (including graduate students, trainees, research associates and professors from LMP, Immunology, IMS and department of Medicine) are exposed to asbestos levels higher than Occupational Health and Safety Act mandated acceptable standards. In spite of five asbestos incidents on 6th and 7th floor in such a short duration, each incident has been treated as an isolated event. More importantly other labs on both floors were kept in the dark about these incidences, until last week (almost 45 days after the incident). All the affected labs are seriously concerned about the unsatisfactory measures taken to remediate the asbestos contamination.

To begin with, members from 4 separate labs (Gaisano, Kaul, Ostrowski and Pei) notified their departments and/or EHS about the incidences in their respective labs. Post abatement, they were told that it is safe to resume work in their labs. However they were not given the test results in spite of several requests. After 3-4 weeks, a fifth incident was reported in Rozakis lab (room 6334) wherein the dust in lab revealed 0.5-5% asbestos fibers (much higher than acceptable limits). LMP informed Rozakis lab members that their space was safe to work, but later it was found to have tested asbestos positive post abatement (360,100 structures/cm² wherein 1000, 10,000 and 100,000 structures/cm² are considered low, above background and significant accidental release respectively). The source of asbestos contamination in room 6334 remains unclear, however construction on both the floors continues. This resulted in the lab being shut-down for the last three weeks and lab members had to stop their experiments abruptly.

These incidences have not only affected our progress in graduate studies/training, but also our trust in EHS and the respective departments to provide us with a safe work environment. The lab members, who were exposed to asbestos, have not been given proper guidance to assess the possible long term consequences on their health. We find it worrisome and reprehensible that EHS and the respective departments have failed to properly manage this serious health hazard violation. Thus we demand following:

- Access to all results of previous asbestos incidence tests and reports of asbestos abatement in MSB.
- As per University of Toronto student's rights and Occupational Health and Safety Act, we are entitled to work space that is safe and hazard free. Thus, lab members should be provided with a lab space that is safe and free of asbestos.

We appreciate your concern and time.

Thanks and Regards,

6th and 7th floor Occupants, Medical Science Building.

Name	Position	Email	Room No.	PI Name	Signature with date
SHARIQ MUJIB	PhD	SHARIQ.M@gmail.com	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Shariq (8 MAR 2017)
NAJMEH EDRAKI	MSc	najmeh.edraki@mail.utoronto.ca	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Najmeh Edraki 8 Mar 2017
PHIL BONNER	Lab Assistant	phil_441@hotmail.co.uk	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Phil Bonner 8-Mar-2017
Jordan Schwartz	PhD	Jordan.a.Schwartz@utoronto.ca	6360	OSTROWSKI	Jordan Schwartz 8-Mar-2017
Sanja Huibner	Research technician	sanja.huibner@utoronto.ca	6365	R. Kaul	Sanja Huibner
Cottla Perciani	PhD	c.perciani@utoronto.ca	6366	Kelly Macdonald	Cottla Perciani Mar 08, 2017
Olga Rojas	PhD	olga.rojas@utoronto.ca	7310	Gommerman	Olga Rojas Mar 08, 2017
Gehwangs Raard	PhD student	raard.gehwangs@utoronto.ca	6356	R. Kaul	Gehwangs Raard Mar 08, 2017
NUR RAHMAN	Post Doc	nur.rahman@gmail.com	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Nur Rahman Mar 8, 2017
Mohammad Saleh	MSc	mohammad.saleh@utoronto.ca	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Mohammad Saleh
Abdul-aziz Abd.	Co-op student	abdulaziz.abd@utoronto.ca	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Abdul-aziz Abd. March 08 2017
Natalie Au	Co-op student	natalie.au@mail.utoronto.ca	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	Natalie Au 08/03/2017
John Wu	PhD	john.wu@utoronto.ca	6352	M. OSTROWSKI	John Wu 08-3/2017
Manmeet Sekhon	Co-op	manmeet.sekhon@utoronto.ca	6360	Kelly Macdonald	Manmeet Sekhon 09/03/2017
Vineet Jay	PhD	vineet.jay@gmail.com	6356	KAUL	Vineet Jay 10/03/2017
Yoojin Choi	PhD	yoojin.choi@utoronto.ca	6356	KAUL	Yoojin Choi 13/03/2017
Awid Mohammad	PhD	awid-mohammad@utoronto.ca	7366	Kaul	Awid Mohammad 13/03/2017
Xuexuan Song	Research Associate	xuexuan.song@utoronto.ca	7366	Pei, York	Xuexuan Song 13/03/2017
Ning He	Technician	ning.he@utoronto.ca	7366	Pei, York	Ning He 13/03/2017
Amir Hashighi	Research Assistant	amirrez.hashighi@gmail.com	7366	Herbert Gramann	Amir Hashighi 13/03/2017
Tairan Qin	Technician	tairan.qin@utoronto.ca	7366	Herbert Gramann	Tairan Qin 13/03/17
Merv Abdel-Nou	PhD	merv.abdelnou@gmail.com	6354	Ward	Merv Abdel-Nou 13/03/17
Charles Lam	MSc	charles.lam@mail.utoronto.ca	6254	S. Girardin	Charles Lam 13/3/17
Raphael Molinar	Post-Doc	molinar@utoronto.ca	6254	S. Girardin	Raphael Molinar 13/3/17
Jessica Tsirikis	PhD student	j.tsirikis@mail.utoronto.ca	6254	S. Girardin	Jessica Tsirikis 13/3/17
Shira Eilon-Jourard	MSc	shira.eilon.jourard@utoronto.ca	7336	Dr. J. Lee	Shira Eilon-Jourard 13/3/17
Ivan Todor	PhD	ivan.todor@utoronto.ca	7338	Philipp	Ivan Todor 13/3/17
Sowmya Shivan	PhD	sowmya.shivan@utoronto.ca	6334	Dr. Rozakis	Sowmya Shivan 13/3/17
Nyan Abdalqadir	PhD	nyan.abdalqadir@utoronto.ca	6334	Dr. Rozakis	Nyan Abdalqadir 13/3/17
Dier Mahmood	PhD	dier.mahmood@utoronto.ca	6334	Dr. Rozakis	Dier Mahmood 13/3/17
Sam Killackey	PhD	sam.killackey@mail.utoronto.ca	6254	Dr. Girardin	Sam Killackey 13/03/17
Dave Prescott	PDF	dave.prescott@utoronto.ca	7318	Dr. Girardin	Dave Prescott 13/03/17
Evelyn Lam	MSc	evelyn.lam@mail.utoronto.ca	7310	Gommerman	Evelyn Lam 13/03/17
Srijit Khan	PDF	srijit.khan@utoronto.ca	7316	Dr. Girardin	Srijit Khan 13/03/17
PAULLEMIRE	PDF	paul.lemire@utoronto.ca	6254	Dr. Girardin	Paul Lemire 13/03/17
Elisabeth Foerster	PhD	elisabeth.foerster@utoronto.ca	7318	Dr. Philpott	Elisabeth Foerster 13/3/17
Charles Maisonneuve	PhD	charles.maisonneuve@utoronto.ca	7318	Dr. Philpott	Charles Maisonneuve 13/3/17
Nichole Escalante	PhD	nichole.escalante@utoronto.ca	7318	PHILPOTT	Nichole Escalante 15/03/17
Farshad Azimi	PhD	farshad.azimi@mail.utoronto.ca	6336	Lee	Farshad Azimi 15/03/2017
Peter Kwashie	Post-Doc	peter.kwashie@gmail.com	6336	Dr. Lee	Peter Kwashie 15/03/2017
Wen Guang He	MSc	wenguang.he@mail.utoronto.ca	6336	Lee	Wen Guang He 15/3/2017
Li Xie	Research Assistant	shelleylx@gmail.com	7368	Dr. Gaisano	Li Xie 15/3/2017
Zahra Alvandi	PhD	zahra.alvandi@gmail.com	6326	Dr. Opat	Zahra Alvandi 15/03/17
Dan Daniel Zhu	MSc	dzzz.zhu@mail.utoronto.ca	6336	Dr. Opat	Dan Daniel Zhu 15/03/17
Daniel Turade	PhD	daniel.turade@mail.utoronto.ca	6336	Dr. Lee	Daniel Turade 15/03/17