Davidson College Biology Department
Laboratory Safety

General Safety Rules

- Work in a laboratory only during regular, assigned period when an instructor is present, unless specific authorization has been given by the instructor.
- Read carefully and observe fully all laboratory instructions. In case there is any doubt about any procedure, check with your instructor.
- Learn location and proper use of emergency showers, fire extinguishers, and eye wash stations.
- Avoid inhaling chemical vapors or gases. Use fume hoods for hazardous materials.
- Immediately wash off and chemicals spilled on the skin with lots of water. In case of a serious spill, remove contaminated clothing immediately and flush affected area with lots of water.
- Do not eat, smoke or drink in the laboratory.
- Do not leave experiments in progress unattended without authorization.
- Keep working areas neat and clean at all times.
- Report all accidents to the instructor immediately.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All persons working with hazardous chemicals should wear gloves.
- All persons working with chemicals that could be splashed in the eyes are required to wear safety goggles or glasses.
- Contact lenses should not be worn in lab when hazardous chemicals or vapors are being used.
- Because of the danger of broken glassware or spilled chemicals, covered shoes should be worn in the laboratory.

Chemical Handling

- Almost every chemical, whether solid, liquid or gaseous is poisonous to the human body to some degree. Always use proper caution when handling chemicals.
- Consult a physician if you are pregnant or have any other medical condition that might render you susceptible to exposure to the chemicals used in this laboratory.
Laboratory Safety cont.

- When handling chemicals, keep your hands away from your face, eyes and body until your hands have been washed thoroughly.

- Do not taste any chemical. Label every container so items can be identified.

- When diluting acids, ALWAYS POUR ACID INTO WATER SLOWLY.

- Do not pipet anything into the mouth.

### Waste Disposal

- Always treat laboratory glassware as if it were fragile. If glassware breaks, do not pick broken glass up with your hands. Use a broom and dust pan, then place pieces in the cardboard box labeled “Glass Disposal Box”.

- Do not pour any chemicals down the drain. The instructor will advise you to proper waste containers.

- Discarded animals parts must be placed in a red, cardboard “Biohazardous Waste” Box.

- Discarded sharp items including: scalpels, dissecting pins, probes and needles, must be placed in a red, plastic “Sharps Box”.

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**SAFETY AGREEMENT**

I have read the Lab Safety Rules and procedures for the prevention of injuries in the laboratory, and I will observe them in my lab work.

STUDENT’S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

INSTRUCTOR’S NAME COURSE

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE DATE

Return signed copy to instructor.