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From: Chanbishop [mailto:Chanbishop@chanoff.ucsf.edu]

Sent: Monday, October 15, 2001 4:35 PM

To: UCSFSTAFF@ITSSRV1.UCSF.EDU

Subject: Safety at UCSF

"Safety at UCSF"

Dear Colleagues:

We have entered into a time of heightened anxiety, at home and work, in our cities and nation, and around the world. UCSF is committed to providing a secure workplace, while trying not to infringe unnecessarily on the personal freedoms we all value. In response to the tragic events of September 11, the campus took immediate steps to augment the security of our premises and personnel. Now we are engaged in planning for the longer term. I want you to know in particular of two major initiatives.

First, we have mounted an effort to further secure our personnel and facilities against any eventuality, and to be certain that the campus is prepared to respond to diverse emergencies. This effort will build on mechanisms for rapid and comprehensive response to disaster that the campus has already established and has deployed on several occasions. We are not starting "from scratch" in this endeavor. One manifestation of our efforts to prepare for any eventuality will occur on October 23, when the UCSF Medical Center will conduct a full-dress disaster drill for its employees.

Second, we are taking measures to assure our ability to recognize and respond to attacks with biological or chemical agents, and to prevent the campus from being the source of materials that could be used to mount such attacks. To this end, we are working not only across the various campus and medical center sites, but in coordination with city, state, and federal agencies. As a first step, the campus is disseminating guidelines for the prevention and management of potential exposures to anthrax. These should be available within 24 hours.

Please understand that we are taking these measures not because UCSF has any reason to be especially concerned, but because they seem prudent. We are acting in the spirit of a time-honored medical dictum: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

You will be hearing more about these various efforts in the days and weeks to come. Making UCSF a secure environment is a responsibility that we all share and should not take lightly. I ask for your cooperation as we move forward with this effort.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Bishop, M.D.
Chancellor