

Not Rocket Science: A JHU Safety Note

CUTTING EDGE SCIENCE NEEDS CUTTING EDGE SAFETY

Battelle Memorial Institute, which manages 6 Department of Energy National Laboratories and one for the Department of Homeland Security, operates under a series of principles called “Safe Conduct of Research.” [See [this link.](#)] SCoR, as they call it, allows Battelle to standardize **cultural factors** between the different laboratories it manages, and it sets forth 8 principles that researchers can use to determine if they are working under a safe lab culture [principles from The Safe Conduct of Research, v17]:

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Everyone is personally responsible for ensuring safe operations.
- Leaders value the safety legacy they create in their discipline.
- Staff raise safety concerns because trust permeates the organization.
- Cutting-edge science requires cutting-edge safety.
- A questioning attitude is cultivated.
- Learning never stops.
- Hazards are identified and evaluated for every task, every time.
- A healthy respect is maintained for what can go wrong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How many of these attitudes prevail in your lab?
2. On what do you think you need to work?
3. What other attitudes can you develop to promote a safer lab space?

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