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International lab safety survey results available

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP AND DIGITAL SCIENCE
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Early results of an international survey of researchers' attitudes to laboratory safety were made available today. The survey was conducted by Nature Publishing Group, commissioned by the University of California Center for Laboratory Safety and BioRAFT, a web-based laboratory safety and compliance management system. Early results are reported in this week's issue of *Nature*, and the UC Center for Laboratory Safety are analysing the data further for future publication.

The survey attracted over 2000 anonymous responses, and is the most comprehensive international study to look at the culture of lab safety to date. The three partners are clear that the results are preliminary starting points for further study, and that many questions remain.

"One of the key challenges in lab safety is how to get people not just to comply with lab safety guidelines but to care about lab safety," said Nathan Watson, CEO and President of BioRAFT. "The results of this survey provide a helpful starting point in tackling this sensitive topic." Digital Science invested in privately-held BioRAFT in June 2012.

According to the *Nature* news report, "The biggest barriers to improving safety in the lab were "time and hassle" and "apathy", scientists said. "If I could have selected apathy three times over, I would have," one scientist wrote."

Topline data from the survey are available on figshare at <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.105431>.

The *Nature* news story is available here: <http://www.nature.com/news/safety-survey-reveals-lab-risks-1.12121>. A related editorial is also in this week's issue of *Nature*: <http://www.nature.com/news/safety-catch-1.12118>.

-ENDS-

-More information-

About BioRAFT

The BioRAFT suite of research management software modules significantly improves laboratory safety, compliance processes, researcher productivity, and management oversight. BioRAFT enables researchers to focus on their research by managing compliance for training, biosafety, hazardous chemicals, radiation management, MSDS, and other laboratory safety requirements. BioRAFT has secured an investment from Digital Science, a new technology company out of Macmillan Publishers Ltd. For more information, visit <http://www.BioRAFT.com>.

About Digital Science

Digital Science is a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd., launched in December 2010 to provide technology solutions for researchers. From intelligent knowledge discovery tools to software applications for the laboratory and decision-support systems for managers, Digital Science combines world-class technology with a resolute focus on scientists and those who support the research process. For more information, visit www.digital-science.com.

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