



Seven Secret Strategies to Put the F.U.N. Back in Your Laboratory Safety Program



***First Coast ID/CM
Symposium***



DAN
THE LAB SAFETY MAN Inc.

Safety is in the Bag...



Objectives

- ▶ Relate safety to infection prevention practices.
- ▶ Apply the F.U.N. framework - Focus, Understanding, Nurture.
- ▶ Implement creative strategies for sustained safety behavior.
- ▶ Improve patient safety through the application of safer habits in the laboratory setting.

Secret #1: Focus on the Process

- ▶ Results oriented society
 - ▶ Meet the budget
 - ▶ Meet productivity
 - ▶ Improve turnaround time
 - ▶ No overtime
 - ▶ Reduce safety incidents

Process Vs.
Results

Secret #1: Focus on the Process

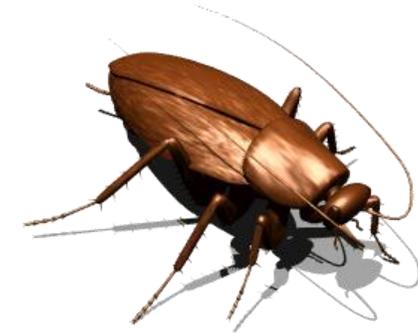
- ▶ Focus on the process
 - ▶ Set goals
 - ▶ What can I do today
 - ▶ Incremental achievements

Secret #1: Focus on the Process

- ▶ Don't live in a fast-food world
 - ▶ Don't bite off more than you can chew
 - ▶ Don't forget the condiments
 - ▶ Savor the experience

- ▶ Results will follow

Secret #1: Focus on the Process



Secret #1: Focus on the Process

- ▶ Think of one safety goal your lab keeps failing to hit.

- ▶ What is ONE daily behavior that supports that goal?

Secret #2: Trust Begins With You

- ▶ Trust builds transparency.
- ▶ Encourage reporting without fear.
- ▶ Lead with empathy and follow up with consistency.

Secret #2: Trust Begins With You

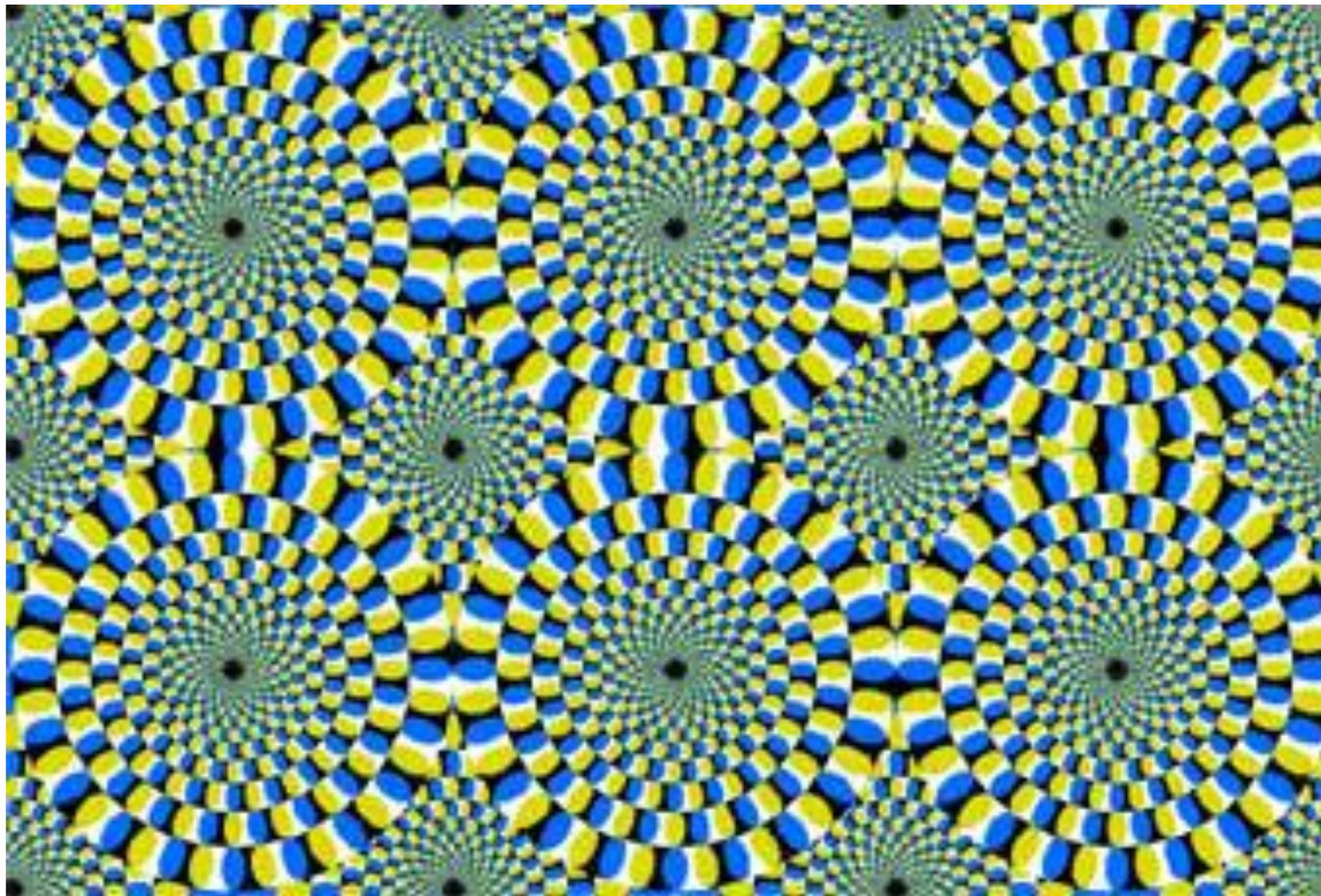
- ▶ How do you respond when someone admits a mistake?
- ▶ A. Corrective
- ▶ B. Supportive
- ▶ C. Defensive

Supportive leadership prevents silence!

Secret #2: Trust Begins With You

- ▶ Tell me a time when you reported something and leadership did not respond how you expected...
- ▶ Transparency in reporting is GOLDEN!

Secret #3:
Use Your
Safety Eyes!



Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!

- ▶ Situational Awareness
- ▶ The ability to identify, process, and comprehend the critical elements of information about what is happening to the team with regards to the mission.
- ▶ Knowing what is going on around you.

Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!

▶ Indicators of Loss of SA

▶ No one watching or looking for hazards.

▶ Use of improper procedures.

▶ Departure from regulations.

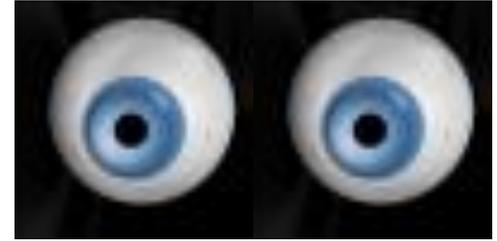
▶ Failure to meet planned targets.

▶ Unresolved discrepancies.

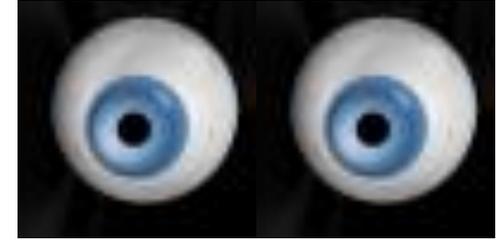
▶ Ambiguity.

▶ Fixation or preoccupation.

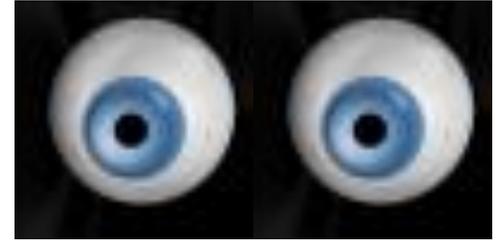
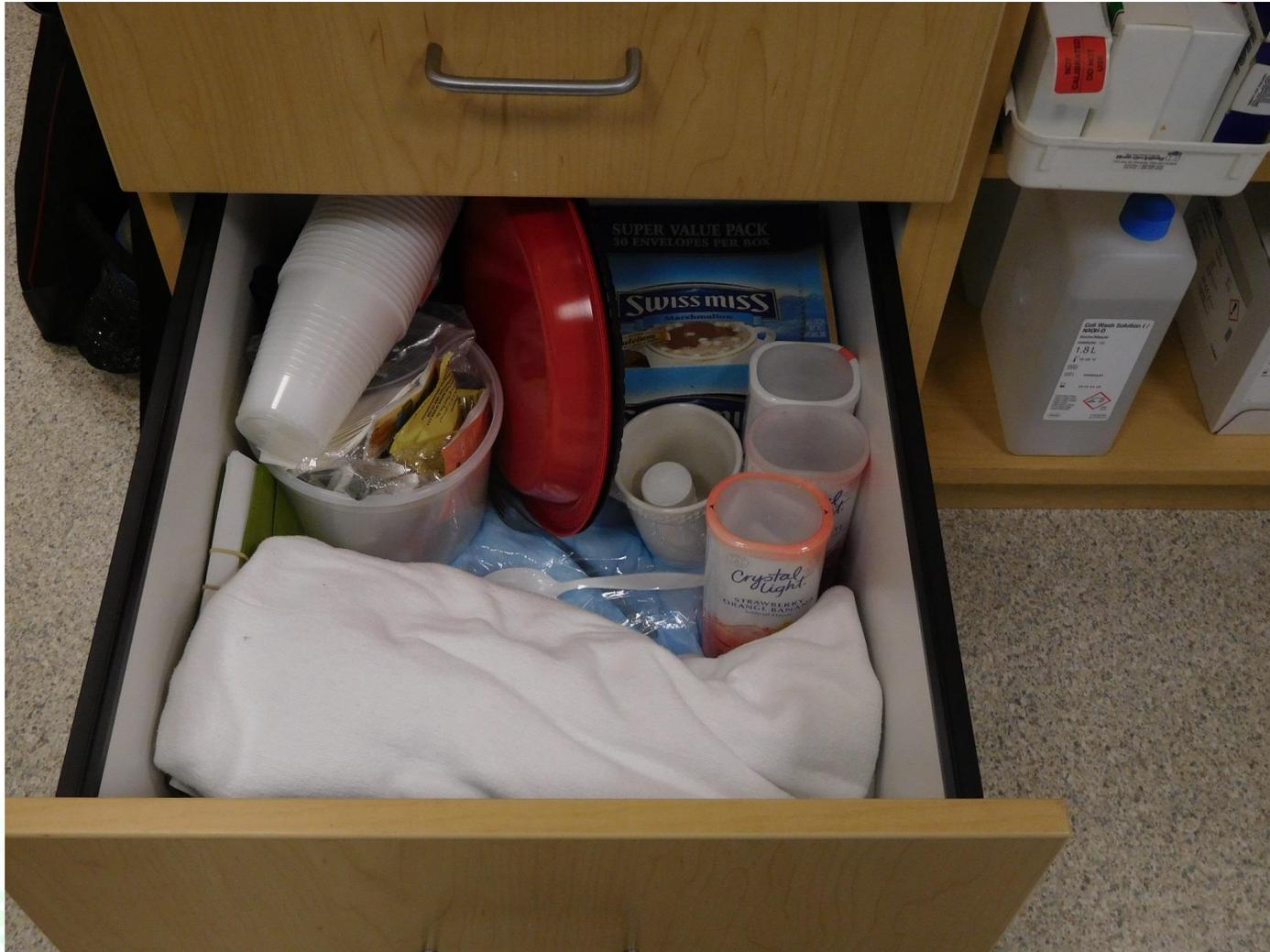
Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!



Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!



Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!

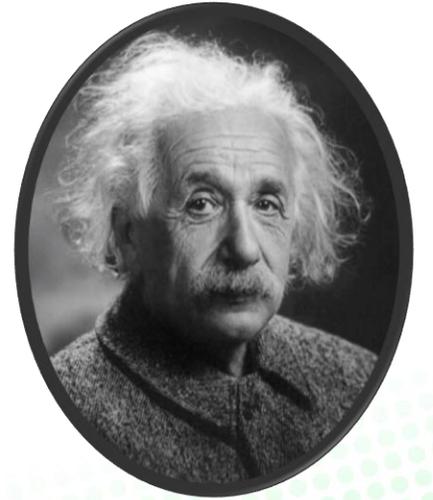


Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!



Secret #3: Use Your Safety Eyes!

- ▶ Complacency in Safety
- ▶ Albert Einstein said:
- ▶ “The world is not a dangerous place because of those who do harm, but because of those who look on and do nothing.”



Secret #4: Learn from the Past, Look to the Future

- ▶ Audit data reveal root causes.
- ▶ Track trends: sharps, aerosols, near-misses.
- ▶ Turn reports into learning opportunities.

Secret #4: Learn from the Past, Look to the Future

- ▶ Predict the Future:
- ▶ What's the next biosafety challenge?
- ▶ Automation
- ▶ AI
- ▶ Another Pandemic
- ▶ Something Else? Are You Ready?



Secret #4: Learn from the Past, Look to the Future

- ▶ Predict your Future:
- ▶ What do you think will be your lab's next safety incident?

If we can predict it, we can prevent it.

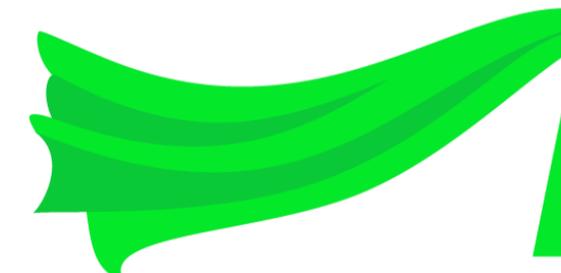


DAN
THE LAB SAFETY MAN Inc.

What Did You Win??



 **DAN**
THE LAB SAFETY MAN Inc.

 **DAN**
THE LAB SAFETY MAN Inc.

Secret #5: Your Best Friend May Not Be Your Dog

- ▶ OSHA
- ▶ EPA
- ▶ CDC/NIOSH
- ▶ CLSI
- ▶ DOT
- ▶ WHO
- ▶ U.S. Federal Register
- ▶ Vendors
 - ▶ Medical Waste Hauler
 - ▶ Chemical Waste Handler
 - ▶ Vapor Monitor vendor
 - ▶ PPE vendor
 - ▶ Air flow contractors
- ▶ Internet/AI?
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ Dan The Lab Safety Man

Secret #5: Your Best Friend May Not Be Your Dog

- ▶ Environmental Health and Safety
- ▶ Plant Engineering/Facilities
- ▶ Housekeeping
- ▶ Employee Health
- ▶ Infection Prevention and Control
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Laboratory
 - ▶ Administrators
 - ▶ Supervisors
 - ▶ Safety Committee
 - ▶ Staff

Secret #5: Your Best Friend May Not Be Your Dog

▶ Collaboration in Action

- ▶ Brucella Exposure
 - ▶ BSL2 Lab Practices
 - ▶ Construction of BSL3 Lab
- ▶ Pneumatic Tube Transport
 - ▶ Risk Assessment
 - ▶ EHS Input

Secret #5: Your Best Friend May Not Be Your Dog

▶ 40 Seconds



Secret #6: Safety Education Isn't a One-Night Stand



- ▶ Training is a relationship, not a requirement.
- ▶ Use refreshers and scenario-based sessions.
- ▶ Celebrate near-miss reporting.

Secret #6: Safety Education Isn't a One-Night Stand



- ▶ Generational Learning Styles
 - ▶ Gen Z: Microlearning on mobile
 - ▶ Millennials: Interactive modules
 - ▶ Boomers: Mentoring discussions

Secret #6: Safety Education Isn't a One-Night Stand



- ▶ Generational Learning Styles
 - ▶ Which generation do you design training for?
 - ▶ Which generation do you actually have?
 - ▶ If training doesn't land, it doesn't matter how compliant it is.

Secret #7: Become a Safetypreneur™

- ▶ Innovate safety beyond compliance.
- ▶ Think like a problem-solver, not a policy enforcer.

Secret #7: Become a Safetypreneur™

- ▶ Write down:
- ▶ One small safety idea you could test in 30 days with no budget.
- ▶ That's what Safetypreneurs do—experiment.

Secret #7: Become a Safetypreneur™

- ▶ Innovation Ideas for 2026
 - ▶ QR code SDS access
 - ▶ Gamified audits
 - ▶ Peer-nominated Safety Hero awards
 - ▶ Digital dashboards
 - ▶ AI

The F.U.N. Formula

- ▶ F - Focus
 - ▶ U - Understanding
 - ▶ N - Nurture
-
- ▶ Safety isn't serendipity—it's Science.

The F.U.N. Formula

- ▶ Trust drives transparency.
- ▶ Education must evolve.
- ▶ Innovation keeps labs safe & engaged.

What Did You Learn?





info@danthelabsafetyman.com

www.danthelabsafetyman.com

DAN
THE LAB SAFETY MAN Inc.

QUESTIONS?

**First Coast ID/CM
Symposium**

