Basic Lab Policies

A few guiding principles underlie all of our lab activities. Keep them in mind while working in the lab.

- **Take responsibility.** Even if you didn’t create a problem, you can still help to solve it.
- **Be helpful and kind.** If someone needs help with something and you have the time, do it. You might need their help one day.
- **Know what you’re doing.** For every activity. At all times.
- **Ask if you don’t know.** There are no stupid questions, and experienced lab members will always be glad to help you if you don’t know how to do something or where something is. If you encounter a problem that you’re not sure how to solve, try to generate some ideas for solutions (trouble-shoot), then approach an experienced lab member, or the lab manager for help. It is ALWAYS better to ask than to make a mistake.
- **If you make a mistake, tell someone.** We all make lots of mistakes every day, even people who have been in the lab for a long time. The important thing is to be honest about it and tell someone, because it’s better to lose data because of a mistake that can be prevented next time than to have data that are incorrect.
- **Strive for personal excellence.**