

My Company

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The Allergan Minute



Keeping the Lab Safe, And Cost-Efficient

In Allergan labs in buildings R&D-II and R&D-III in Irvine, U.S.A., there are more than 200 fume hoods. For safety reasons first and foremost, it is important that all potentially harmful chemical work be conducted inside a properly functioning fume hood.

But when they are not in use, keeping the sliding glass door ("sash") of the fume hoods closed can save heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) costs. The supplier of the fume hood's airflow monitor estimates it costing \$20,000 per year more for every set of four fume hoods, if the sashes were constantly left open compared to closed all the time.

"The cost of conditioning the air in the lab space is expensive, and by keeping the sashes closed we can save on HVAC costs," says Yu-Mei Lu, senior administrator, R&D EHS. "So, we recommend that our researchers keep fume hood sashes closed when unattended or not in use for both safety and energy cost savings."

Do you have an idea that's thinking outside the bucks? Write to the Internal Communications mailbox [here](#) and we'll make sure the right person receives your recommendation.

Shown below is Yu-Mei Lu in front of one of more than 200 fume hoods in Irvine, U.S.A., R&D labs.

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