**Sustainability Report SMG 1/06/23**

I am pleased to announce that CVS has been successful in our audit and will receive the UoE Silver Sustainability Award…..hopefully officially confirmed in the next few weeks. A massive congratulations to everyone in the CVS Sustainability Committee and in the labs who helped CVS achieve this

We will be the largest laboratory area in BioQuarter to receive this award and second largest in size in the whole CMVM to be currently awarded the silver level.

Recent or ongoing developments that have greatly improved our standing with the Sustainability Department and helped in gaining our Silver Award include

* Implementation of the previously approved increase of all CVS Ultra low Freezer temperatures from -80C to -70C introduced in early May 2023. This, alongside the new CVS freezer signage policy that will allow us to display a clear visual record of freezer maintenance and cleaning was very favourably commented on.
* Introduction of digital timers on various pieces of electrical equipment which started in January initially with ice machines to allow us to have overnight timed shutdowns of heavy running equipment.
* Introduction of significant sustainability component into CVS induction process including information on sustainable lab practices, an induction quiz to include questions around sustainability themes and a requirement for new lab staff to attend a specific sustainable lab training course
* Regular updates on Sustainability actions and successes are now included in the CVS Newsletter and distributed.
* Website presence will be substantially increased and minutes, committee member’s names and interests and reference material will be able to be stored and accessed from a single site.

CVS Sustainability support continues to be driven by a small number of mainly technical staff and students across CVS and there is currently little representation from academic staff at any level on the Sustainability Committee. Indeed many larger CVS groups or entire laboratories especially those in the West provide no representation at all.

I am awaiting the full audit report and recommendations but would imagine that there will need to be a significant increase in engagement with the policy and procedures put in place in CVS to ensure that we retain the award and it is not a transient success achieved by a dedicated small number of staff.

It should be stressed to staff and students that engaging with Sustainability can be recorded as part of individual personal and professional development for academic staff and can be at least an item for discussion in the annual P&DR process for those in professional services roles.