

Retired BMET Builds UV-C Lightbox At Home

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What do old, retired Biomedics do when COVID-19 hits? Soldier on like everyone else and find something to *build* of course! How about a UV-C disinfecting lightbox?

Being in my 70's now, and retired for a number of years, I was planning to hand off the WSBA Treasurer & Webmaster reins this Spring. The best laid plans sometimes go sideways when a pandemic arrives. Rather than hand off these duties to other board members who are already up to their ears in new challenges, I am continuing to help manage the website, WSBA communications, and WSBA finances. At least temporarily. Isn't that part of the Biomed culture? My observation over my many years in this profession is that Biomedics are similar to others in the helping professions like nurses and teachers. They like to find solutions and keep things going. I think the COVID stories being provided by Jim Kenyon (who by the way is also retired!) proves this out.

One of the great things you younger folks, who are not yet retired, have to look forward to is the opportunity to do stuff just for the *fun* of it. In late February, when COVID-19 was looking pretty scary, I decided to order a UV bulb to disinfect suspect household items (like face masks or packages). Due to a sudden consumer demand my bulb didn't arrive until this week. Let the fun begin! Fortunately, I have a great workshop full of tools and lots of surplus junk hanging around. These allow me to build stuff without going to the hardware store.



This 10-inch long bulb puts out the UV-C wavelength using 120 volts AC. It is similar to a much larger version of light source that my friend Dennis McMahon showed me that was being used at a local hospital in 2017 to disinfect the OR. (Dennis is another retired BMET who continues to help out by managing our website *Jobs* page).

Of course, this light is quite dangerous to look at so I had to build a light box out of scrap wood, metal, an old socket, and a household light switch. All items found in my scrap boxes.

Here's a few pictures of the final box. I am fortunate to have a welding unit in my shop so that's where the face shield in the photo came from. Amazingly, the lightbox passed the smoke and fire test!



Lightbox with top removed



Chris wearing welding face shield

Of course COVID-19 building activities don't have to be ALL serious. We retired folks also get to build some fun stuff like the wood & metal fence art I put outside of my house to entertain the many people who are out taking their daily walks.



So what's the message? One day this will be over and you too can take all of those many things you have learned during your careers and just *play*. Keep up the great work that you all do!

PS: You younger folks might want to consider volunteering with the WSBA. Us retired guys (Jim, me, Dennis) need to move on. Perhaps give a little back to your career field?