Lessons learned:

**An Eye Exposure to Class 4 Femtosecond Laser**

**What happened?**

A student was working in a laser lab along with his lab manager and PI. The student had to connect two plus and minus cables to a power supply. The cables are in red and black colors for plus and minus, respectively.

Since the student was wearing laser safety goggles as required, he could not distinguish between the cable colors. The student then took off the safety goggles for a brief moment to look at the colors, and felt a burning sensation in his eye.

**What went wrong?**

Taking off the laser safety goggles while a laser beam is open and on.

**What went right?**

After the student informed his lab manager about the burning sensation in his eye, the laser beam was immediately turned off.

The PI took the student to the emergency room for an ophthalmological evaluation. There was no serious eye damage.

**How to prevent similar incidents in the future?**

- Prior to performing any new research procedure, the Safety Unit recommends performing ‘a dry run’ to find out possible safety failure modes.
- Labeling the power cables beforehand.
- Never remove laser safety goggles while a laser is operating.