



Biosafety Training Initiatives

Existing Opportunities, Future
Needs

LouAnn C. Burnett, MS, CBSP

With greatly appreciated assistance
from:



Susan Cook

Nicole Duffee

Bob Ellis

Jennifer Gaudio

Ray Hackney

Penny Holeman

Joe Kanabrocki

Sean Kaufman

Michelle McKinney

Jill Niland

Reynolds Salerno

Stefan Wagener

ABSA Council

ABSA office

and many, many others

Reality Check



- The public is concerned about research involving pathogens.
- The public is entitled to a transparent and thorough explanation of how biorisk is managed.
- Effective training is critical to managing biorisk.

Reality Check, continued



- Training a biosafety professional is a great start, but not the end in biorisk management.
- The market demands training.
- Our action will dictate what training looks like.
- Our inaction will allow others to dictate what training looks like.

Other Realities



- Training dollars are limited.
- Training must be continuous.
- Retention must be monitored.
- Effective training is a full-time job.
- One training solution does not fit all needs.
- New technology may not equal a solution.

Biosafety Training Initiative Summit

- Catalog information on training opportunities
 - ▣ Provide single source for those seeking training
 - ▣ Serve as document to inform policy makers of current initiatives
- Use collective strength (collaborate rather than compete) to assure effective and comprehensive biosafety training for ALL those who need it.
 - ▣ Identify common trends and lessons learned
 - ▣ Highlight differences between current initiatives
 - ▣ Uncover gaps and future needs



Collaborators (so far)

- ABSA
- AALAS
- Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases
- Emory University
- Frontline Foundation
- International Biological Threat Reduction Center (Sandia)
- Lovelace Respiratory Institute
- Regional Centers of Excellence in Emerging Diseases and Biodefense
 - ▣ Southeast (SERCEB)
 - ▣ Midwest (MRCE)
 - ▣ Great Lakes (GLRCE)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Process



- Invitation & Survey
- Catalog
- First Look
- Next Steps
- Ongoing Discussion

Definitions & Limitations



- “Biosafety Training Initiative”
 - Single course, or
 - Series of courses/modules combined for a common purpose (e.g., certification track), or
 - Training program

 - External to home institutions

- North America (for now)

Survey Sections



- Management
- Students
- Instructors
- Curriculum
- Materials
- Evaluations
- Lessons Learned
- General Questions – successes, gaps, top 3 initiatives

Catalog



- General description of each TI
- Currently under review
- To be published mid-November (posted on ABSA website, released for unrestricted distribution)
- Living document

Basic Concepts



- 25 TIs represented in survey
- >6000 training seats between Jan 06 and Jul 09
- Mostly BSPs, but others included
- All TIs involve direct training

Lessons Learned



- Small group (<15) training is desirable
 - ▣ All participants, including instructors, learn from each other
 - ▣ Safe environment to learn and share
 - ▣ Allows multiple learning modes
- Networking opportunities are critical to success of TI and to ongoing development of participants

Lessons Learned, continued



- Diverse audience makes it challenging to target content and level of presentation
 - Rookies to veterans
 - Scientists to community members
 - Diverse roles
- Experienced professionals need ongoing training too.

Gap: Many stakeholders need training

- BSPs
 - ▣ New to field
 - ▣ Seeking qualification for certification
 - ▣ CBSP, RBP maintenance
- Other EHS professionals
- Biosafety committee members
- Occupational health
- Research staff
- Animal care personnel
- Support (maintenance, housekeeping)
- Security & emergency response
- Oversight (administrators, regulators, inspectors)

Needs



- More hands-on, targeted training necessary for all groups,
- Targeted electronic modules where appropriate
- Trainer preparation programs to disseminate more effective training across more groups (e.g., train-the-trainer)

Needs, continued



- Competencies and training tracks - global
- Attention to instructional design & retention
- Exploration and evaluation of new methods of presenting information (podcasts, social networking, etc.)

Next steps



- Expand data collection and collaboration globally
- Continued collaborations among TI coordinators to explore ideas such as:
 - ▣ Partnering training experts with biosafety SMEs
 - ▣ Facilitating a forum to continue to share successes, lessons learned, and gaps
 - ▣ Focusing on non-BSP groups
- Prepare to respond to anticipated Congressional call for national training agenda (keeping our global partners in mind)

Stay tuned. . .

