

Brief Overview of the Emergence of Biosafety

Expanding Horizons

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ABSA
INTERNATIONAL
The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

www.absa.org

1955 - 1980

Attendance at the first three conferences was necessarily limited to Government scientists and safety personnel from the Biological Weapons (BW) Facilities because the “sessions were classified”.

There were 25 attendees at the first conference.

1955 - 1980

Over the next seven years the declassification of the program content permitted expanded attendance, primarily by other Federal agencies, universities.

A heightened concern with laboratory worker safety based on the research inquiries of the forefathers of our profession wrought even wider participation in biological safety.

1955 - 1980

The program content was provided by engaged individuals committed to sharing the findings of their research, sometimes challenging and sometimes validating the prevailing dogma.

A G. Wedum was the progenitor of this quintessential organizational trait of sharing experiences and data that remains an ABSA core value.

Year Organizations Were First Represented at the First 10 Biological Safety Conferences 1955-1965

Organization	Year
Camp Detrick	1955
Dugway Proving Ground	1955
Pine Bluff Arsenal	1955
U.S. Department of Agriculture	1955
U.S. Public Health Service	1955
National Animal Disease Laboratory	1957
Plum Island Animal Disease Laboratory	1958
University of Utah	1961
Communicable Disease Center	1964



Organizations and Year First Represented at the First 10 Biological Safety Conferences 1955-1965

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Year</u>
National Institutes of Health	1964
Naval Biological Laboratory	1964
Naval Weapons Laboratory	1964
Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center	1964
U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine	1964
U.S. Army Desert Test Center	1964
U.S. Army Materiel Command	1964
U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command	1964
University of Wisconsin	1964
National Cancer Institute	1965



Today

The membership of ABSA International has grown and evolved through the efforts of the membership into a self-managed professional society of committed volunteers who selflessly share their time, talent and energy.

We are now comprised of persons and affiliated groups in Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, North America, South American, Europe, and Australia.

So we take a few minutes this morning to be reminded of our humble beginnings to reflect on our beginnings.

THANK YOU!

<https://absa.org/about/hist01/>



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