



Disseminating Biosafety Information to Non-scientists

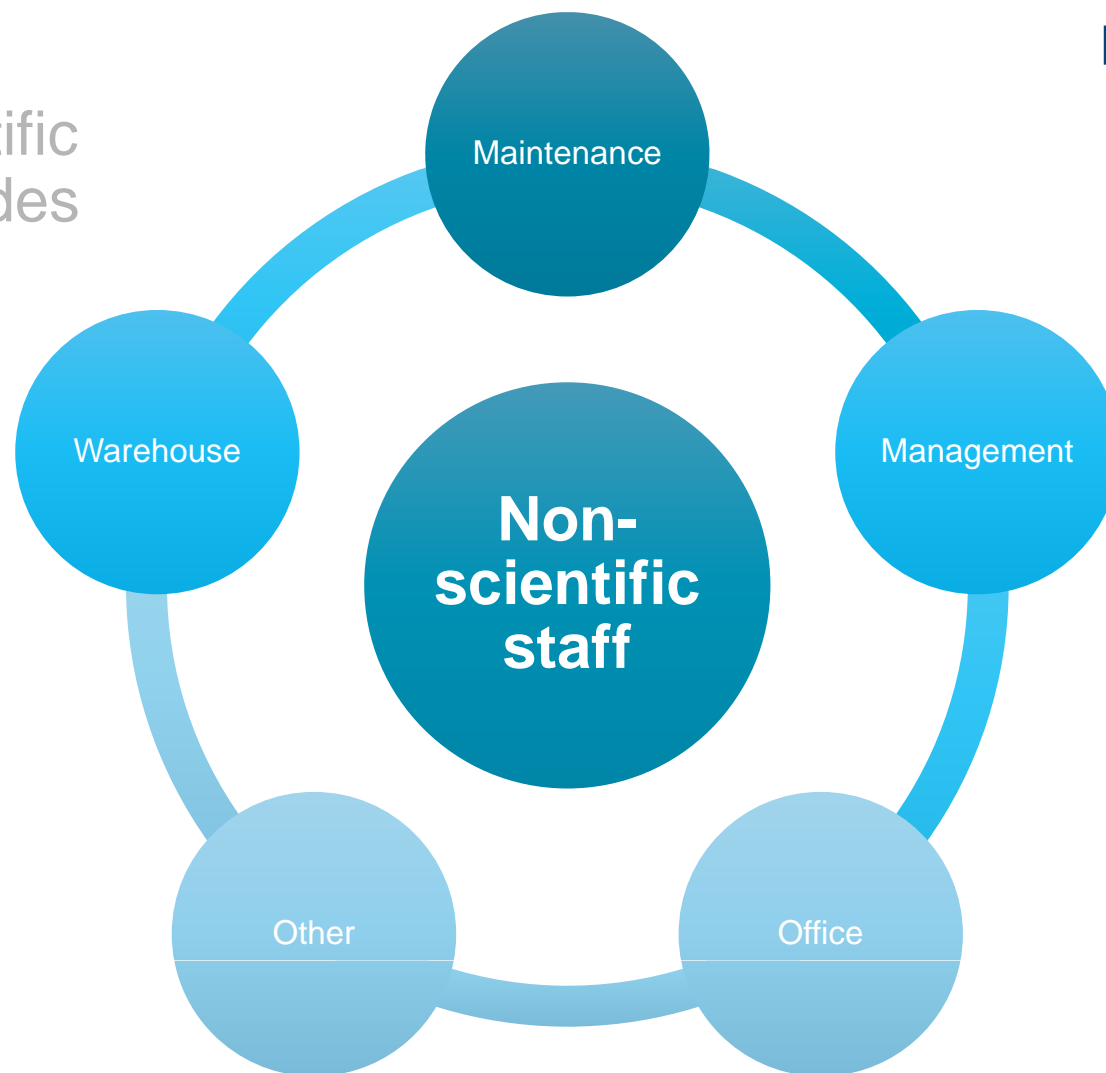
60th Annual Biological Safety Conference
ABSA International
Albuquerque, NM
October 13-18, 2017

A decorative pattern of yellow lines and arrows on a blue background.

Challenging Problems.
Smart Solutions.



Non-scientific Staff Includes





MEDIA

INCOMPLETE
OR
INACCURATE
INFORMATION

MISINFORMATION

FAKE
NEWS

Case Study #1

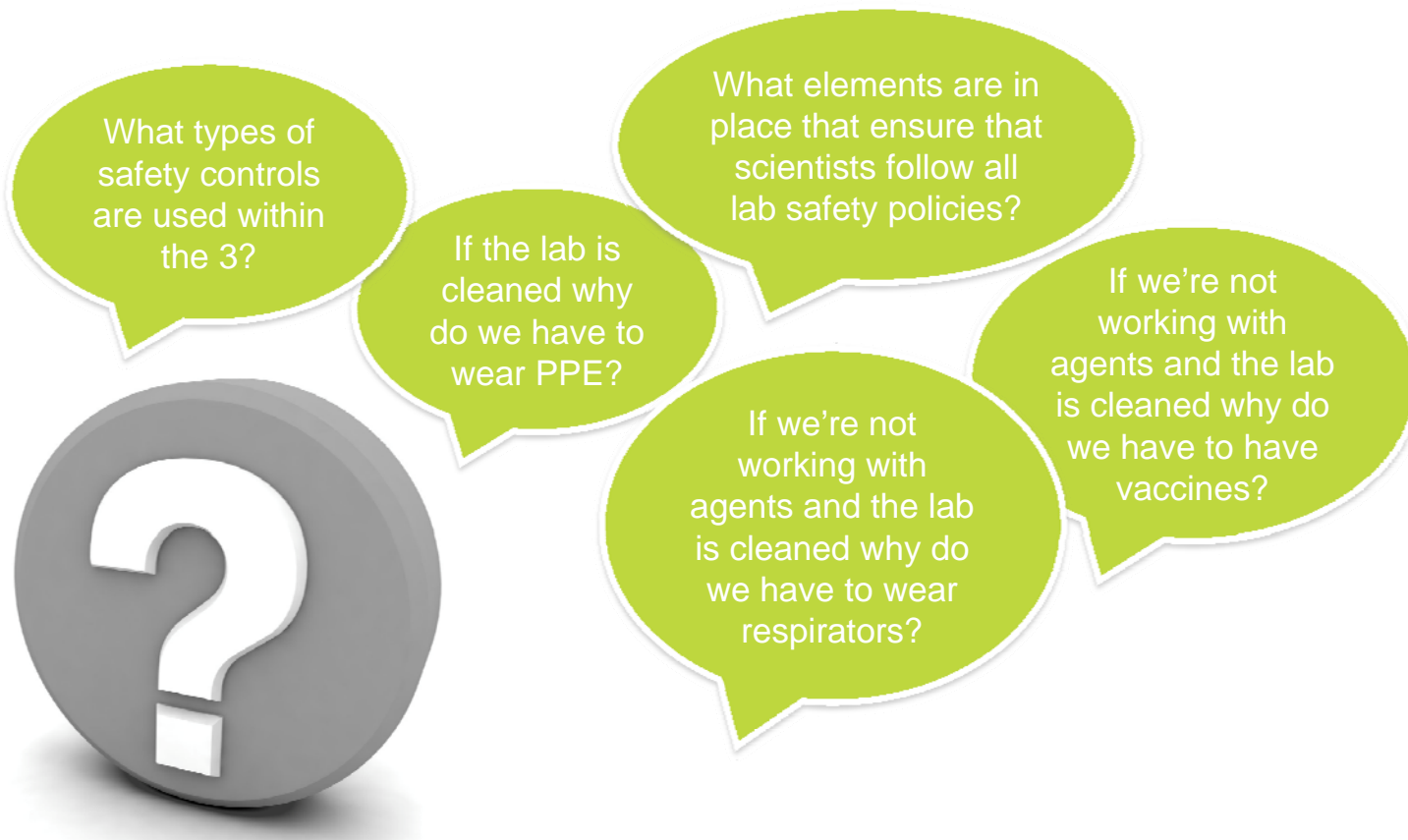
BACKGROUND

- Newly built BSL-3 laboratories, BS&S program starting.
- Maintenance of laboratory was performed by an independent contractor hired to service the BSL-3 laboratory.
- The independent contracting staff did include a safety officer on-site but no biological safety officer was on regular lab staff.
- The independent contractor staff had limited access to the BSL-3 BSO.
- The initial concern was for the safety of the workers that needed to enter the BSL-3 space to conduct maintenance operations.



Case Study #1:

Questions asked by non-scientific staff



Case Studies Objective

To develop a strategy for understanding the level of comprehension and specific concerns of particular audiences of non-scientists in order to create and disseminate information tailored specifically to address their needs.

Work Plan



Tailored Training for Case Study #1

- **3-day initial training event**

- **Topics covered included:**

- An Overview of Basic Laboratory Safety
- Health Management
- Preparing Laboratories for Maintenance Work
- Laboratory Orientation
- Emergency Response and Risk Management
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Hazardous Material Safety
- BSL-3 Entry and Exit Requirements
- Introduction to PPE

- **Questions asked in the initial visit were addressed at this time**

Additionally,

- Developed Biosafety Manual specific for the non-scientists
- Annual refresher training

Case Study #2

BACKGROUND

- An independent BSL-2 laboratory was acquired, moved, and retro-fitted into an existing lab within a distribution center.
- The BSO from the original BSL-2 laboratory had moved from the acquired lab to the new building.
- The initial concern was that the warehouse and office staff were not comfortable with the addition of a laboratory to their space.
- Marketing problem?



Case Study #2:

Questions asked by non-scientific staff

Why do the
scientist work
in the cabinet?

I've been sick since
the lab arrived, am
I getting sick from
the lab?

How are
viruses
transmitted?

Why have so many of
my co-workers been
sick this winter? But
the scientist working
in the lab aren't
getting sick?

How do I know
the scientists
clean properly?

If I catch virus
from the lab
will I turn into
a zombie?



Work Plan



Case Studies Objective

To develop a strategy for understanding the level of comprehension and specific concerns of particular audiences of non-scientists in order to create and disseminate information tailored specifically to address their needs.

Tailored Training for Case Study #2

- **A biosafety assessment was conducted of the new lab space**
- **Training event was held**
 - Presented results of biosafety assessment
 - Encourage trainees to check out ABSA International website
- **Pre- and post questionnaires**

Additionally,

- Annual refresher training

Was this approach effective?



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IN CONCLUSION

Knowing your audience, and the concerns of your audience, allows for delivery of more effective and relevant information and training to the non-scientists.



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THANK YOU

Get in touch and share your thoughts

CONTACT US

Lolly Gardiner, MBA, RBP, SM (NRCM), CBSP



65 West Watkins Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878



720-518-735



lgardiner@mriglobal.org