



# ABSAs

## INTERNATIONAL

*The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity*

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On behalf of ABSA International, we welcome you as a participant in the 61st Annual Biological Safety Conference. We look forward to a great event! The following information is for your benefit as you make plans to join us in Charleston, South Carolina. Please do not hesitate to contact the ABSA Office at 866-425-1385 or [info@absa.org](mailto:info@absa.org) if you have any questions.

We will kick-off the Scientific Program on Sunday, October 14, 2018 with the **Opening Reception** in the Exhibit Hall at the Charleston Convention Center from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. We hope that you'll take this opportunity to visit over 70 exhibitors and network with your colleagues. A selection of appetizers and drinks will be available. ABSA will be hosting the exhibitor raffle again this year. In addition to prizes offered by exhibitors, ABSA will provide a complimentary registration to ABSA trainings, ABSA merchandise, and ABSA Anthology books. Further information on the raffle will be provided in your registration packet.

The [ABSAs Conference website](#) includes features to make your experience user-friendly. The conference abstracts are offered online for review prior to the conference. Available abstracts are identified by the lock icon within the program; to unlock the abstract, use the passcode provided with your registration confirmation. Wi-Fi will be available at the convention center or the abstracts may be printed before arrival or viewed on your smart phone. Several conference sponsors will have the conference schedule and abstracts available on a flash drive at their exhibit booth. A list of these sponsors will be posted at the ABSA Registration Desk. In order to be more environmentally responsible, the abstracts are not included in the Conference Proceedings.

The Registration Desk will be open Friday, October 12 through Wednesday, October 17 beginning at 7:00am in the Pre-function Area in the Charleston Convention Center.

The average high temperature in October is 76°F – the average low is 62°F. Please come prepared for meeting rooms where the temperature is difficult to control. Our experience is that the rooms will often be quite cold – **a jacket or other garment that you can layer on or off is essential to your comfort.**

Each attendee for the **professional development courses** will receive an email from ABSA International Training ([notifications@learnupon.com](mailto:notifications@learnupon.com)) approximately 4-weeks from the start of the course inviting you to create your account. If you do not receive the email, please check your spam/junk folders. Within 1-week of the course you will receive an email stating you have been enrolled. If you've previously taken ABSA training (since July 2017), login to <https://absainternational.learnupon.com> to gain access to the course. Upon completion of the course evaluation, certificates will be available for immediate download. We encourage you to complete evaluation at your earliest convenience.

Breakfast will not be offered for any professional development courses. If you are attending **two ½-day professional development courses on the same day, lunch will be provided.** If you are attending one ½-day course in a day, a lunch will not be provided. Additional information will be posted at the registration desk.

If you have **special dietary needs** (e.g., vegetarian, lactose-intolerant, etc.) that were not noted on your registration form, please phone or email the ABSA office **as soon as possible**. We must notify our caterers in advance of special meal arrangements. If you have submitted a request for a special meal, identify yourself to the convention center staff during the breaks.

**Directions** to the Embassy Suites as well as other nearby hotels can be found at <https://absaconference.org/travel/>. The Embassy Suites is the ABSA Host Hotel at the Charleston Convention Center. The Hilton Garden Inn, Hyatt Place, Doubletree, and Residence Inn are near the convention center and will provide shuttle service. **Each hotel will provide breakfast**; continental breakfast will not be served at the convention center. Buffet lunches, coffee breaks, and one ticket to the Tuesday event is provided with conference registration.

Tuesday evening, the event will be held aboard the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point. Enjoy unmatched views of the Charleston harbor and city skyline from the flight deck while nibbling on appetizers. USS Yorktown exhibits will be open for you to learn about past life on board a Navy ship. Additional tickets may be purchased at the ABSA Registration Desk or [online/](#).

Each day, the course and general session will begin promptly at 8:00am and end at approximately 5:00pm. **The Wednesday session will run the full-day ending at 5pm. Please plan accordingly.** A Certificate of Attendance form will be found in your registration packet. Please make sure you complete the form to receive the P.A.C.E.® sticker and signature for P.A.C.E.® Contact Hours.

You may want to extend your stay and bring the family to experience the uniqueness of Charleston. Additional information on things to do in the area can be found at the [Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau](#).

[Follow us on Twitter](#) for any last-minute changes and updates.

Thank you for your participation in the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Biological Safety Conference.

Most sincerely,  
Ed Stygar, III, MBA, CAE  
Executive Director

**IMPORTANT!**

Please note that we use a paperless system for course evaluations. Not only is this more environmentally responsible, but it makes it substantially easier to process the submitted evaluations.

The evaluations are VERY important to us – we try to make improvements after each session based primarily on the responses of the participants. The courses and program you are participating in is a direct result of the constructive and candid comments of those who have attended previously. You will have the opportunity to evaluate the presenters, content, and other activities.

A SurveyMonkey® survey will arrive in your email box. It is important that we have a current email address. Please notify the ABSA Office of any changes to your email.

We want to highlight that, even though each evaluation will technically be linked to your email address, all the information received will be in summary format – we will not be able to determine who said what.

ABSA International is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences through the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) P.A.C.E.® program. Attendees have the opportunity to earn up to 17.0 Contact Hours by attending the entire conference. Attendance rosters must be signed for each attended session that credit is requested for. The **P.A.C.E.® Certificate of Attendance** must be certified by ABSA staff at the registration desk at the end of your time at the conference. This will be used as your certificate of attendance for the conference. No additional certificates will be sent out.