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The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

ABSA International Update

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ABSA International



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The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

62nd Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Conference

Birmingham - Jefferson Convention Complex

Birmingham, Alabama

November 15-20, 2019

- 3 days of pre-conference courses
 - Opportunities to get involved and engaged
 - 3 days of papers, keynotes, posters and panel discussions



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2019 USDA ARS Symposium

- 96 seats filled in 6 pre-symposium courses
- 156 symposium attendees
- 31 international attendees from 10 countries



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ABSA Inclusion Statement

In alignment with our core organizational values, ABSA International (ABSA) encourages positive connections between biosafety professionals, scientists, governmental/nongovernmental organizations, and the public. It is our organization's policy to administer all activities without discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, marital/familial status, and veteran status. These practices extend to all aspects of ABSA's activities and to all roles within the association (e.g., member, ambassador, employee, mentor, sponsor, and vendor).



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CBSP Exam Update

Certified Biological Safety Professional Credential:

- ABSA administered the first ABSA owned CBSP exam June of 2019
- Exam offered throughout the month of June
- Testing centers world wide



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Collaborations

- BSAT Community Advocate Committee
 - Webinars
 - Select Agent Community Forum
 - Workshop after the ABSA conference
 - **Contract was extended for five years**
- Special offering of Principles and Practices of Biosafety for the DIY science community took place in Baltimore MD this summer.



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National Biosafety and Biosecurity Month

“Beyond the Lab: Increasing the Visibility of Biosafety and Biosecurity”

October 2019

The 2019 Biosafety and Biosecurity Month was centered around outreach, education and training, school visits, supporting the STEM disciplines in teaching and learning, and how biosafety and biosecurity professionals are more than compliance people.



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Biosecurity Task Force

- “How can ABSA International establish the global standard for biosecurity?”
- Task Force 2.0 has completed its work and recommendations, 2 + year process
- 2019 the Biosecurity Credential Task Force membership has been submitted and approved by ABSA Council
- 2020 Biosecurity Symposium





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1st Biosecurity Symposium

May 12-15, 2020

The Renaissance Depot Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota



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Biosafety Career Entry and Professional Development Task Force

Purpose: Identify and create resources to

- promote biosafety as a career
- have a clear roadmap of ways to enter the profession and earn a credential
- maintain credentials in a cost-effective manner
- develop key leadership and management skills needed as individual's progress in their career



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The Incredible World of ABSA Volunteers

- ❑ “Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.” – **Sherry Anderson**
- ❑ “If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.” — **Kofi Annan**
- ❑ “Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.” – **Author Unknown**



Cause to Celebrate

- NORCAL Northern California Biosafety Association became an ABSA International Affiliate this year.
- Note from the Embassy of Ukraine that the First Donors' Conference on Biosafety and Biosecurity was held on November 14-15, 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine.
- Updated ANSI/ASSE Z9.14 Standard - John Henneman and crew
- ISO 35001, Biorisk Management for Laboratories and Other Related Organizations has been approved by TC 212 and is now under publication – Barbara Owen & Kalpana Rengarajan



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ABSABiosafety

- ❖ Biosafety and Biosecurity Professional Outreach and Mentoring.
- ❖ Open forum to all biosafety and biosecurity professionals.
- ❖ Exemplifies the best qualities of the profession in sharing of information.
- ❖ A reminder about conduct, the terms and conditions of the ABSA International Biosafety Discussion listserv will be sent out annually. The listserv is for biosafety professionals and those interested in the field of biosafety and biosecurity to safely ask questions and share information.
- ❖ Operates with the premise that all questions are responded to in a thoughtful and professional manner and that the only silly question is the one that is not asked!



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