



5V. Keeping it Going: Maintaining and Improving a Select Agent Program Over the Long Term

October 22 and October 29, 2026 | 11:30 am – 3:30 pm CDT
Virtual Professional Development Course

Instructors:

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Overview

Keeping a select agent program going can be difficult, especially in the face of ever-changing regulatory requirements and limited resources. Established procedures may suddenly become unacceptable, interrupting research and frustrating laboratorians. Likewise, a single unexpected adverse event can put an entire program at risk. Being prepared to deal with such changes and events is critical to maintaining a robust program. Anticipating future challenges can be even more advantageous, elevating a program from good to great. A proactive approach can minimize the impact of new requirements and reduce duration and frequency of crises sparked by sudden, unexpected requirements or events. This course will explore strategies for maintaining and improving an existing program, including how to anticipate and respond to new requirements. The focus will be on U.S. select agent requirements, although a small section on comparable requirements in the international community will be included. Strategies will be based on the instructors' experience with their program with additional input solicited from class attendees during open discussions. Topics will include select agent program history; effective oversight; efficiently meeting ongoing requirements; reporting, responding to, and analyzing incidents; suitability program case studies; inactivation requirements, including "failure" investigation; and inspection preparation and response. The course will consist of topical presentations followed by group discussions aimed at facilitating application of presented strategies to attendees' individual programs and providing a platform to capitalize on attendees' collective experience.



Objectives:

- Identify strategies to efficiently maintain a compliant select agent program and anticipate future regulatory focus
- Develop effective approaches for preparing for inspections and implementing required changes
- Review a series of suitability program case studies and identify strategies for dealing with potential suitability concerns
- Summarize inactivation requirements and identify successful strategies for compliance

Audience Level: Intermediate

Suggested Background: None

Who Should Attend: All Safety Professionals, Select Agent Program Safety Professionals

Course Logistics: Course is two 4-hour sessions. Attendees will need to log on 10 minutes prior to the start time. There will be a 15-minute break each session. To receive credit and a certificate, attendees must attend the session and complete or access all course modules. The course materials are for **registered participants only**.

Course Fees: ***ABSA Member: \$550 Non-member: \$735**
* To receive the ABSA member rate, participants must be current ABSA members during the training year. Fees include course handouts, access to the ABSA International training site, and 8 hours of expert-led interactive instruction.

Credits: This course has been approved for **1.0 CM points** toward RBP/CBSP recertification. *ABSA International is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.[®] Program. This course is approved for **7.5 P.A.C.E.[®] contact hours**. Course access links are unique and for individual use only. **Sharing is prohibited**. Duplicate logins or unregistered attendees will be removed from the webinar without a refund.

Questions: Contact: Kari DeServi, MEd, Director of Education, ABSA Office, 866.425.1385 (toll free)
Email: education@absa.org

Register: **By phone:** (866) 425-1385 or **Online:** www.absa.org
Confirmed, paid participants will be sent detailed information regarding the course within a few days prior to the course. Substitutions allowed with notice by 9/24/2026. There is a 15% processing fee for cancellations prior to 10/1/2026. No refunds after 10/1/2026.