



ABSIA Background

- Purpose:
 - To promote biosafety as a scientific discipline
 - To serve the growing needs of biosafety professionals around the world
 - Provide a forum for the continuous and timely exchange of biosafety information
- First Conference in 1955
- Incorporated in 1984



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ABSA International

- 1543 members
 - 85 international members
 - 27 countries
 - 495 credentialed professionals
- Purpose:
 - To promote biosafety as a scientific discipline
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ABSA Affiliates and Partners



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Affiliates and Partners






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ABSA Serves Members

- ABSA members are owners, customers and workers!
- Team driven volunteer/staff organization







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ABSA Governance Structure

- Members elect Council
- 
- Council is responsible for strategic direction of ABSA and accountable to ABSA members
- 
- Teams, committees, and ABSA staff carry out ABSA's strategic plan



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What can ABSA do for your organization (training)?



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Educational Opportunities

- Principles and Practices of Biosafety
- Biosafety and Biosecurity Training Program
- Distance Learning
 - Concepts of Virology
 - Large Scale Biosafety
 - Fundamentals of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
- Annual Conference
 - 3 days pre-conference courses
 - 3 days of presentation/talks



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What can ABSA do for your organization (credentials)?



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Credentials

- RBP (Registered Biosafety Professional) - 359
 - Experience, recommendations and scientific degree
- CBSP (Certified Biological Safety Professional) - 136
 - Microbiology courses, experience, passing of the CBSP exam



Note: you do not have to be an ABSA member to earn credentials!



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So, what can ABSA do for you?

- Networking
- Find a mentor
- Get involved in your profession!
- Make some of the best friends you will ever have
- Meet some of the brightest people you will ever know



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ABSA Outreach and Initiatives



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Website

Summary of BMBL ed. 6 changes

Buyer's Guide

Basic Biosafety Training Materials

LAI Database

Biosafety Curriculum

PPB info

Covid Toolbox

Risk Group App

ABSA Conference info



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Accreditation Program

- Target Audience for Accreditation
 - NOT currently designed for laboratories under Select Agent/Toxin law
 - Checklists being revised for clinical/public health labs/International laboratories
 - Annual accreditation
 - BSL-2, ABSL-2, BSL-3, ABSL-3 laboratories included



<https://absa.org/lab-accred/>



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•ABSAs International Biosafety and Biosecurity Month

- How have roles and responsibilities shifted as a result of the pandemic?
- What roles have biosafety professionals filled in the response and how might they contribute to responding to emerging risks?
- How can biosafety professionals fulfill key functions while working virtually?

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OCTOBER 2020
Biosafety and Biosecurity Month



**The Role of Biosafety and Biosecurity
in Mitigating Emerging Risk**



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NEW ABSA Risk Group APP! Sponsored by

- Ability to search the risk group database
- Android and Apple
- Additional ABSA links
- FREE!



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Outreach



- Public Health Outreach Task Force
 - Focused on assisting Public Health labs maintain state of the art biosafety/biosecurity programs in the face of cutbacks in funding
 - Outreach to clinical labs
- ABSA Office working to form partnerships with other professional organizations
 - ASM, APIC, AALAS, NIH, CDC, USDA



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Collaboration With Government Agencies



- BSAT Community Advocate Committee
 - Webinars
 - Select Agent Community Forum
 - Workshop after the ABSA conference
 - **Contract is extended for five years**
- Special offering of Principles and Practices of Biosafety
- National Biosafety Stewardship Month



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Join the ABSA International Select Agent Users Forum

- If interested in joining the ABSA International Select Agent Forum send an email to: education@absa.org with "SA Forum" in the subject line
- Online discussion to share information and to discuss Select Agent issues, tips for compliance, and successes and challenges on meeting regulations
- The BSAT Community Advocate Committee will provide summary of anonymous feedback from the Forum to APHIS/CDC in an effort to improve the FSAP
- All of the ABSA International Select Agent Forum events are free to Select Agent users
- The Select Agent Forum is only for individuals who work at institutions with U.S. Select Agents



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Applied Biosafety



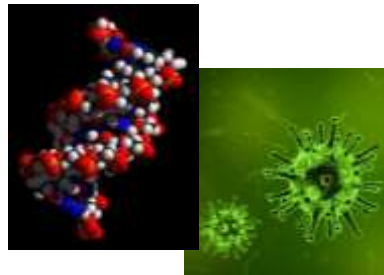
- January 1, 2021 – *Applied Biosafety* transitioned from Sage to Mary Ann Liebert
- Mary Ann Liebert offers ABSA a better fit given their catalogue of journals and smaller size, therefore helping *Applied Biosafety* receive more attention
- After 1/1/2021—submit articles to <https://home.liebertpub.com/apb>



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New & Emerging Technologies/ Diseases Working Group

- Developing resources for technical and emerging issues
 - Position papers
 - Webinars
- New Vector Systems
- Synthetic Biology
 - Genome editing
- Infectious Diseases
- Transitioning to join the Publications Committee



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Biosecurity Task Force

- “How can ABSA International establish the global standard for biosecurity?”
- Survey of members:
 - 71% want professional development opportunities in biosecurity
 - 80% want Applied Biosafety publish articles on biosecurity
 - 47% (approx. 210 individuals) interested in a biosecurity credential
- Appropriate committees are being encouraged to address the first two items
- The Biosecurity Credential is currently under development



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Biosafety Curriculum



www.nbbtp.org

- In conjunction with the NBBTP, ABSA is offering:
 - Free Biosafety curriculum (3-4 credits) appropriate for:
 - Undergraduate science majors
 - Nursing students
 - Med tech programs
 - Public Health student
 - Medical students
 - Graduate students
 - Also 1 week Biosafety program for HS students



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Publications Project: Laboratory Acquired Infection Database

- Online LAI database is now available on the ABSA International website
- The Laboratory-acquired Infection (LAI) database allows searches for published, peer-reviewed case studies
- This resource provides information to help us develop evidence-based biosafety, and provides actual case studies for training
- Key data is summarized for each reference



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Public Relations Committee

- Working on talking points that can be submitted in response to inquiries
- Identifying experts who are willing and able to speak on topics
- Want to be more proactive with white papers, etc.



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65th Annual Conference

Milwaukee, WI
Oct. 14-19, 2022

- 3 days of professional development courses
 - Opportunities to get involved and engaged
 - 3 days of papers, keynotes, posters, panel discussions, and networking with peers



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Questions?



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