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The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity

ABSA Update

Melissa A. Morland MS, MBA, RBP, CBSP
ABSA Past President

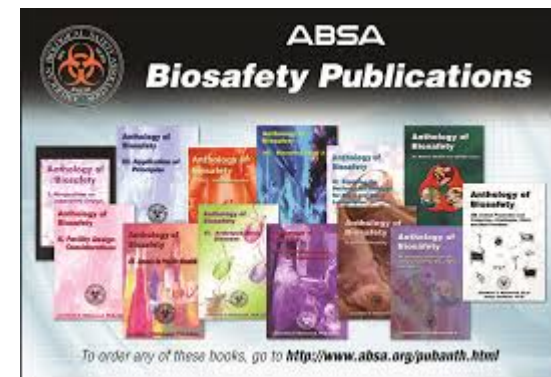
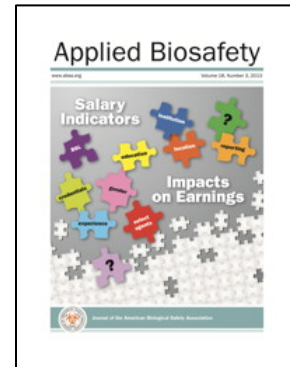


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ABSA Background

- 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



Sept. 30 - Oct. 5
Gaylord Texan
Grapevine, TX



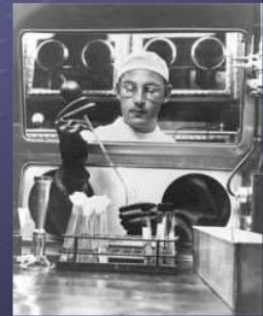
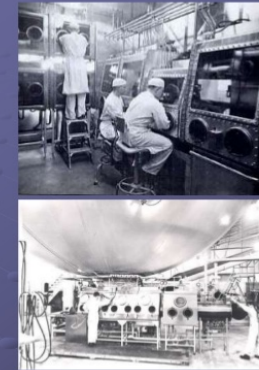
ABSA History

- 1955
 - Biological Warfare effort in full swing
 - The opening keynote address at ABSA that year: “The Role of Safety in the Biological Warfare Effort.”
 - Attendees: members of the military representing Camp Detrick, Pine Bluff Arsenal and Dugway Proving Grounds
 - Eventually joined by NIH, CDC, USDA



Courtesy of Chuck Dasey
The "Eight Ball" under construction

Organizational Ethics: Biosafety invented at Camp Detrick before bioweapons developed



A.G. Wedum MD - Safety "S" Division - first division to be activated in 1943



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Today:

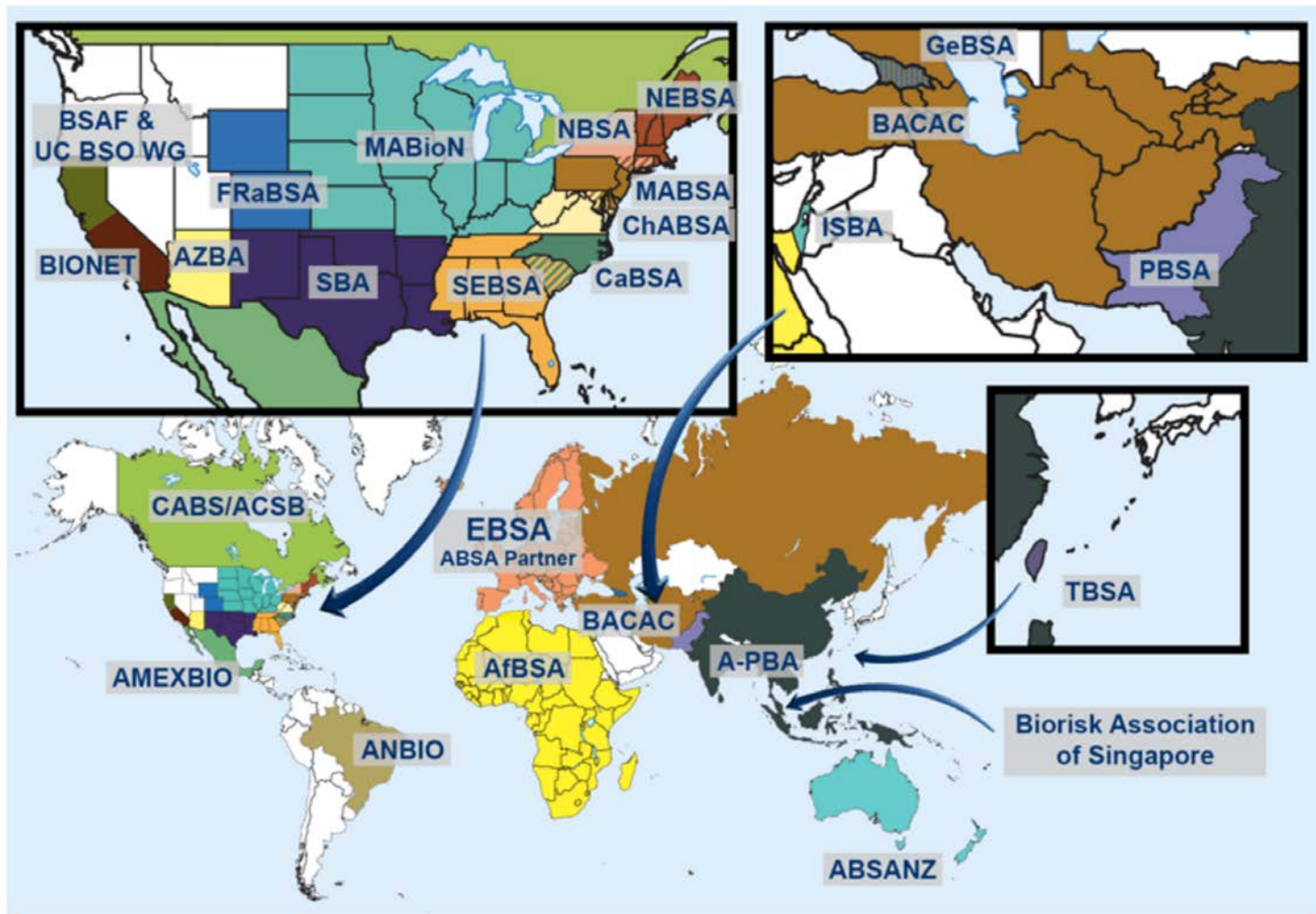
- 1,460 members
 - 200 international members, 37 countries + U.S.
 - 447 credentialed biosafety professionals
- Membership makeup
 - Microbiologists, Veterinarians, Industrial Hygienists, Engineers, Architects, Nurses, MD's, Medical Technologists and other technical experts
- Representing
 - Academia and research institutions
 - Government laboratories
 - Private industry
 - Public Health Laboratories



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ABSA Affiliates and Partners



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2016 Conference in Grapevine

- 887 seats filled in pre-conference courses
- 638 registered conference attendees
- 37 countries represented
- 75 exhibitors



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ABSA Initiatives

- We have new group membership discount for academia, nonprofits, and government agencies.
- The Laboratory Accreditation Program is now offering accreditation for BSL 2/ABSL-2 labs in addition to BSL 3/ABSI-3 labs.
 - Request to consider clinical laboratories
- Continue to increase distance learning- 15 webinars offered with 351 attendees in 2016
- Learning Verification- increasing options for obtaining CM points



NEW ABSA Risk Group APP!

Sponsored by

BICORRAFT

ENTERPRISE SAFETY, COMPLIANCE & TRAINING SOFTWARE

- Ability to search the risk group database
- Android and Apple
- Will have additional ABSA links
- FREE!



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Outreach

Global Health Security Agenda Consortium

- ABSA is the coordinator for the Professional Associations Working Group of the GHSAC
- First meeting was January 21, 2016
- Mapped the activities of professional associations in support of the GHSAC

Affiliates and Partner meetings



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ABSA in Action

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

- Presented to the FESAP WG on tasks 1.2 and 1.3
 - *Identified ABSA training that includes curricula on conduct that incorporates fundamental safety and security responsibilities expected of all life scientists and best practices for incorporation of bioethics training that incorporates fundamental safety and security responsibilities expected of all life scientists*
- Fast Track Action Committee presentation
 - Addressed two questions: Should biosafety regulation scope be expanded and is a risk based approach to biosafety and biosecurity feasible?

Federal Select Agent Program

Contract to support information sharing among peers

- Select Agent Community forum
- Webinars
- Facilitated Meetings of stakeholders at the ABSA Conference



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ABSA in Action

- ABSA engaged by Government Accountability Office (GAO) to provide feedback and suggestions on parameters to evaluate the effectiveness of the Federal Select Agent Program's oversight
- ABSA representatives are actively involved in the drafting team of ISO 35001.
- ABSA representative on the APHL Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee
- ABSA representative on Association of Public Land-grant Universities Task Force on Laboratory Safety



ABSA in Action

- Participated in the WHO Biosafety Advisory Group meeting in Geneva, Switzerland
- Will participate in the 1st Biorisk Management Symposium in Tunis, Tunisia – April 2017
- Will participate in the 20th EBSA Annual Conference in Madrid, Spain – April 2017



ABSA in Action

ABSA Responses:

- Proposed biennial review of the Select Agent and Toxin List, released on January 19, 2016
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Select Agents and Toxins, and to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agriculture Select Agent Services, 14 March, 2016
- Federal Select Agent Program (FSAP) Policy Statement entitled, “Inactivated Bacillus anthracis”, released on November 30, 2015
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Select Agents and to the Toxins and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Agriculture Select Agent Services, 11 February, 2016
- Proposed Action under the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules (NIH Guidelines), Document number 2015-26388, 80 CFR 62543
Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health, 30 November, 2015
- Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology
National Science and Technology Council, Emerging Technologies Interagency Policy Coordination Committee, Office of Science and Technology Policy 12 November, 2015
- ABSA Response to October 29, 2015 White House Biosafety Memo



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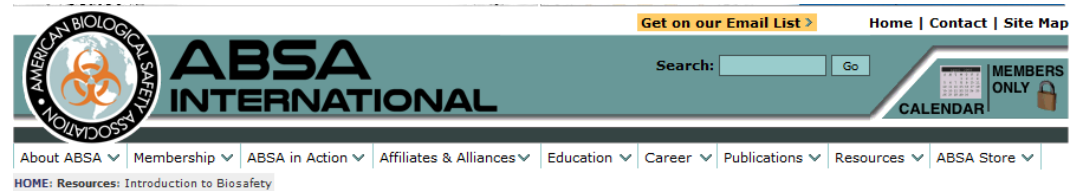
Publications Project: Laboratory Acquired Illness Database

- Online LAI database will soon be available on the ABSA International website
- The laboratory-acquired infection (LAI) database will allow searches for published, peer-reviewed case studies.
- This resource will provide information to help us develop evidence-based biosafety, and provide actual case studies for training.
- Key data is summarized for each reference.
- Many reports do not come up on literature searches for LAIs – even MMWRs or Applied Biosafety articles.



Biosafety Course Curriculum Developed

- 5 credit and 1 credit course
- Undergraduate and graduate students
- Now available on ABSA.org



Introduction to Biosafety Biosafety Curriculum for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Are your students prepared to work safely in the laboratory?

Research laboratories are unique environments that present specific risks and challenges. Many undergraduates, and even graduate students, lack rigorous instruction in biological safety. They don't understand the risk present in the laboratory or how to protect themselves from those risks.

ABSA International, in partnership with the National Biosafety and Biocontainment Training Program (NBBTP), is pleased to announce the offering of a curriculum package for the education of undergraduate science students in the discipline of biological safety; this course is also appropriate for graduate, medical, nursing, public health, and medical technology students. The course is designed as a 12-week semester course, either 1 or 5 credits. The course content is designed to be flexible to allow instructors to select what is appropriate for their specific program needs and schedules.

Covered topics include:

- History of biosafety microbiology and molecular biology
- Risk assessment
- Biosafety levels
- Personal protective equipment
- Laboratory facilities and safety equipment
- Disinfection, decontamination, and sterilization
- Regulatory compliance
- Laboratory security and emergency response
- Administrative controls
- Current topics in biosafety

The course package includes learning objectives, assessment criteria, a workbook with case studies, exercises, and helpful illustrations and diagrams; it is available free of charge to anyone interested.

There is also a one-week long summer course guide for high school students who plan to pursue careers in science.

Thanks to Dr. Robert Ellis at Colorado State University who kindly provided his course outline to use as a roadmap for this work. Thanks also to Dr. Brandon Hatcher and Dr. Chad Austin who led the NBBTP efforts to develop these courses.

Comments or questions should be sent to:

ABSA International
info@absa.org

One-Week High School Course

[Syllabus\(PDF 338KB\) >](#)

[Detail\(PDF 608KB\) >](#)

[Supplemental Info\(PDF 458KB\) >](#)

Under Graduate Courses

[Syllabus\(PDF 177KB\) >](#)

1 Credit, 1 Semester

[Learning Objectives\(PDF 519KB\) >](#)

5 Credits, 1 Semester

[Learning Objectives\(PDF 657KB\) >](#)

[Instructor Workbook\(PDF 1.7MB\) >](#)

[Student Workbook\(PDF 1MB\) >](#)

[Additional Materials\(zip 3.6MB\) >](#)

[Handouts\(zip 1.4MB\) >](#)

[LAI Case Studies\(zip 13.4MB\) >](#)



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Moving Forward

Overarching themes for 2017:

- Policy
- Biosafety Resources
- International Engagement



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Moving Forward

- Influencing Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy
 - White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
 - CDC and USDA
 - GAO
 - OSHA



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Moving Forward

- Develop Resources for Technical and Emerging Issues (position papers, best practice recommendations)
 - New Vector Systems
 - Synthetic Biology
 - Genome editing
 - Infectious Diseases



Moving Forward

- International Engagement
 - International Biosafety Norms
 - Engagement of International Affiliates
 - International/Domestic ABSA Ambassadors
 - International Session at the ABSA Conference

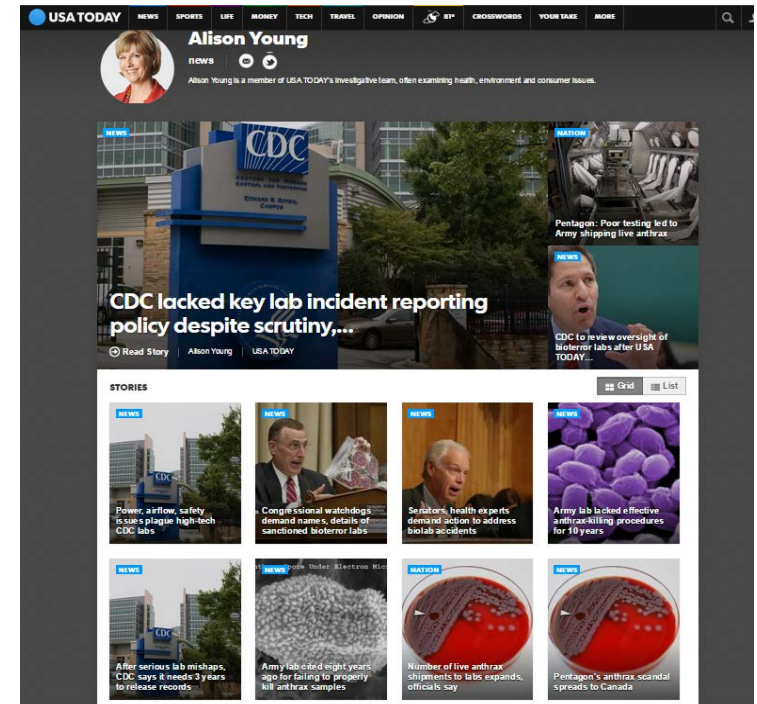


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Public Relations

- Public Relations committee newly formed.
 - Working on talking points that can be submitted in response to inquiries.
 - Identifying experts who are willing and able to speak on topics.
- **Working Group to look at developing resources.**



ABSA Ambassadors Program

- Promote field of Biosafety, ABSA International programs and credentials to:
 - Other professional associations
 - ABSA Affiliates and Partners
 - Professional development programs
 - Schools of Public Health, Nursing, etc.
 - Organizations developing international biosafety and biosecurity programs
 - High School Career Day
- Initially, ABSA Past Presidents/Past Council members will represent ABSA



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Principles & Practices of Biosafety (PPB)

- San Antonio, Texas from March 5-10, 2017
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from July 9-14, 2017
- Tampa, Florida from February 18-24, 2018
- The Team: Patrick Condreay, Paul Meechan, Betsy Weirich, Dee Zimmerman, Jeff Owens, Hallie Hoskins, Natasha Griffith, and Paul Jennette



ABSA International Conference

Oct. 13-18, 2017, Albuquerque NM

- 3 days of papers, keynotes, posters and panel discussions
- ~30 pre-conference courses
- 75 exhibitors showcasing the latest in biosafety and biosecurity products
- *Invaluable networking* opportunities to share and learn from other biosafety and biosecurity professionals
- Opportunities to get involved and engaged
- Abstract deadline is March 24, 2017 at 12:00pm CDT
- Registration for the conference and courses will open spring 2017!



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Questions?



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