PRESIDENT’S PAGE

As I complete my year as President of ABSA, I look forward, as should you, to a new and improved means of communication and publication for our membership. Biosafety today encompasses a wide range of topics and concerns. We have come from an organization made up of laboratory scientists interested in lab safety to an organization whose membership now includes those laboratory scientists as well as occupational safety and health professionals from industry, academia and government, and persons interested in legislation of health and safety issues. ABSA is truly an international organization, with our Canadian Affiliate, and our newest Affiliate organization in Brazil, as well as our members from all over the world. We must be receptive to the needs and concerns of all of our members.

This year has marked an era of change for the Journal and the Publications Committee, under the leadership of Chairperson Joe Van Houten, Editor Richard Knudsen, and Associate Editor Ira Salkin, has recommended changes in the journal format that should allow us to provide a more varied content to the membership. The Council has reviewed the recommendations and has approved them with a great deal of enthusiasm. The new format requires that a number of Assistant Editors be drawn from the membership to develop new content material that will be of interest and assistance to the membership. The search for these volunteer editors is underway and should be completed in the very near future. If you are asked to serve and can find the time, it is our hope that you will accept and provide your expertise to the organization and the rest of the membership. The new journal format will help this organization to reach its goal of becoming the preeminent biosafety organization in the world.

The articles in this edition of the journal provide a range of biosafety issues that are of interest, not just to laboratory safety personnel, but to many others of our members. This is in keeping with our goals and objectives and provides a mechanism for reaching out beyond our organization to those to whom we can be of service. As we go forth with the new publication, in the near future, please let the editors and the council know whether or not the new format meets your expectations and is of assistance to you in your practice of the science of biosafety. It is only through your feedback that we can continue to improve our means of communication and education of our members.

As President of ABSA, I would like to congratulate the editors and the Publications Committee members for their hard work and vision in proposing these changes and wish them the best of luck in making the journal the best biosafety publication in the world. Well done!

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