



ABSA Award Recipients

Award Presentations from the ABSA Conference, October 2002

Editor's Note

As part of the Association's annual conference, Maureen Best, the immediate Past-President, formally presented the following awards to Association members. The descriptions of the awardees' contributions are taken directly from her notes at the award ceremonies.

Arnold G. Wedum Distinguished Achievement Award

Donald Vesley, RBP, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Arnold G. Wedum Distinguished Achievement Award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to biological safety accomplished through teaching, research, service, or leadership.

I am pleased to say that this year's recipient, Don Vesley, has contributed to our profession in each of these four areas. His recombinant DNA safety course was widely distributed by the NIH and extensively used by many biosafety professionals during the '80s and '90s. He has provided leadership to and mentored many graduate students, some of whom have also been recognized by ABSA for their biosafety-related research. He has served on several ABSA committees and on our first Journal Editorial Board.

In recognition of your outstanding contributions to biological safety, it is my pleasure to present this award.

John H. Richardson Special Recognition Award

Benjamin Fontes, MPH, CBSP, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

The John H. Richardson Special Recognition Award was recently developed to recognize an indi-

vidual for a specific contribution that has enhanced ABSA and the profession of biosafety.

Our recipient this year is Ben Fontes, who has significantly contributed to ABSA's training and education programs. In his tenure as Chair of the Training and Education Committee, he has almost doubled the number of preconference courses that are offered. The ABSA/Eagleson Spring Seminar Series has continued to be successful with his enthusiasm and support. Together with his committee, he is ready to launch ABSA's new 40-hour Fundamentals of Biosafety Course...a course intended to travel around the United States and abroad.

I would like to thank Ben for continuing to bring us talented instructors to share their knowledge with us.

Everett Hanel, Jr. Presidential Award

Joseph Van Houten, PhD, RBP, CBSP, Johnson & Johnson Safety and Industrial Hygiene, New Brunswick, New Jersey

The Everett Hanel, Jr. Presidential Award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to ABSA, by promoting the field of biological safety and by fostering the high professional standards of our membership.

This year's recipient is Dr. Joseph Van Houten, a charter member of ABSA and a former ABSA President. His many efforts on ABSA's behalf have improved and strengthened the way we do business. He was instrumental in bringing focus and vision to the Executive Council and in the development of our Long Range Planning activities. He stepped forward to better define and organize ABSA's awards programs. He also firmly established one of our affiliates, MABSA, the Mid-Atlantic Biosafety Association.