



ABSAs Committee Reports

The following information was provided by the chairs of the indicated committees to keep members abreast of their activities.

Affiliate Relations Committee

Joseph P. Kozlovac, MS, RBP, CBSP, Chair
NCI-Frederick
Frederick, Maryland

The function of the Affiliate Relations Committee is to review and approve requests by groups for acceptance into ABSAs as either a Chapter or an Affiliate.

The committee has defined a draft list of benefits that will be provided to its affiliated organizations. This list includes items such as a subscription to the *Applied Biosafety* journal, advertising in the journal, and participation in the Annual Biosafety Conference. This list has been submitted to the ABSAs Council for review and approval.

Concurrently, committee members are actively working with a number of international organizations that have requested affiliation with the ABSAs. The petitioning organizations are required to submit the necessary documents per ABSAs policy. In some cases, individuals in regions where no formal biosafety organization has been formed to date have contacted the Affiliates Committee. In these cases, the committee members are offering guidance to these individuals on how to set up a professional organization, which then may choose to become affiliated with the ABSAs.

Finally, the Affiliate Relations Committee has been asked to contact both national and international affiliates and enlist their aid in the advertisement of biosafety conferences such as the ABSAs Biosecurity Symposium to be held on April 22-25, 2003 in Alexandria, Virginia and the ABSAs Annual Bio-

logical Safety Conference to be held on October 12-15, 2003 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Communications Committee

Melina Kinsey, BS, RBP, Chair
Midwest Research Institute of Florida
Palm Bay, Florida

The objective of the Communications Committee is the promotion, continued development, and oversight of the ABSAs web site (www.absa.org) so that it remains the membership's fundamental source for the transmission and receipt of pertinent information.

On December 11, 2002, the Communications Committee launched the new ABSAs web site design thanks to the tremendous time and efforts of LouAnn Crawford-Burnett, the 2002 Communications chairperson, and IRN Internet Services, the web manager. Prior to this debut, committee members evaluated previous web sites, summarized membership comments for improving the web site, reviewed proposals for a web site manager, procured the services of a new web site manager, consulted with ABSAs committees to ensure that specific committee pages were represented correctly, and finally launched the new web site. This undertaking was accomplished by committee members: LouAnn Crawford-Burnett, Anne-Marie Bakker, Kyle Boyett, Richard Fink, Glenn Funk, Richard Gilpin, Melina Kinsey, Bernadette Menuey, Esmeralda Prat, Bliss Schlank, Micheline Sedlar, John Stygar, and Stefan Wagener.

Goals for the Communications Committee in 2003 involve improving the ABSAs web site as a tool for all biosafety professionals by developing the "members only" section and creating an ABSAs student information page. The early part of the year is

also focusing on fine-tuning the new web site with the help of other committees so that it remains an integral part of ABSA communication with its members. All who visit the site are invited to provide feedback to the committee by using the web comments e-mail address: webcomments@absa.org.

Marketing and Media Committee

Sandy Ellis, Chair
CUH2A
Atlanta, Georgia

The Marketing and Media (M&M) Committee plans to set up booths at various conferences this year. These include the SAIC/ABSA Biosecurity Conference, the AIHA Conference, and the EBSA Conference.

Highlights of the Committee's 2003 goals include:

- Increasing contacts with university students, which hopefully will lead to more involvement on their part
- Strengthening and developing new relationships with other national and international organizations, such as EBSA, OSHA, ASHRAE, and many others

M&M Committee members are Sandy Ellis (Chair), Monica Bell, Chris Kiley, T. M. Chua, Patty

Olinger, Lolly Knopp, Steve Norman, Barbara Boylan, Dee Zimmerman, Chris Thompson, and Maureen Best (Council Liaison).

Scientific Program Committee (SPC)

Karen B. Byers, MS, RBP, CBSP, Chair
Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, Massachusetts

The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) is working on the ABSA 2003 Conference to be held in Philadelphia on October 12-15. We have 20 members representing a wide variety of work settings and four countries. The SPC members are: Andrew Braun, Maureen Best (Council Liaison), Karen B. Byers (Committee Chair), Nick Cirino, Barry Cohen, Serene Forte, Bob Hawley, Betty Kupskey, Andrea Maki, Michele McKinney, Pat Olinger, Rosamond Rutledge-Burns (Past Chair), Deanna Robbins, Ellyn Segal, Heather Sheely, Elizabeth Smith, Curt Speaker, Carolyn Stahl, Guido Vogel, and Ken Yu. We are fortunate to have the Past Chair, Rosamond Rutledge-Burns, to help us meet or exceed the standard set by last year's scientific program. Please respond to the "Call for Papers" that was mailed and send abstracts to karen_byers@dfci.harvard.edu. The SPC looks forward to working with you!