



## 2005 ABSAs Service Award Recipients

### Award Presentations from the ABSAs Conference, October 2005

#### **Arnold G. Wedum** **Distinguished Achievement Award**

David G. Stuart, PhD  
The Baker Company  
Sanford, Maine

*The award shall be given to an individual for outstanding contributions to biological safety through teaching, research, service or leadership.*



David G. Stuart, PhD, accepting the Arnold G. Wedum Distinguished Achievement Award at the 2005 ABSAs Conference in Vancouver.

David Stuart has had a long and highly successful career at the Baker Company. He received his Doctorate in Microbiology, and is a Charter Member of ABSAs. Through his distinguished career he has served on the original Steering Committee of ABSAs, the Technical Review and Nominating Committees, and the Journal Editorial Board.

He has mentored numerous colleagues in the certification profession regarding microbiology, de-

contamination and biocontainment and has been a constant source of reliable and timely information to the Controlled Environment Test Association (CETA), ABSAs, and the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). He has had a profound influence in the area of standards writing as a participant in NSF committees. He is the voice on many panels that send the clear message that standards be developed based on scientific fact by ensuring participants provide research results to support their positions on standards development. He continues to make contributions to biosafety on international and national levels by teaching courses including "Advanced Certification" in the United States, Russia, and Hong Kong. He is noted by his colleagues and fellow biosafety professionals as an individual that leads by example. He is a dedicated researcher and teacher in the field of contamination control with an inspirational work ethic.

#### **Richard C. Knudsen** **Memorial Publication Award**

Janet E. Meszaros, MS  
Steris Corporation  
Mentor, Ohio

*The award shall be given, when merited, to the author(s) of an article that reports a significant contribution in scientific investigation and/or health and safety in areas of interest to Richard Knudsen during his career. The award recipient need not be a member of the American Biological Safety Association.*

**Research Article:** Meszaros, J. E., Antloga, K., Justi, C., Plesnicher, C., & McDonnell, G. (2005). Area Fumigation with Hydrogen Peroxide Vapor. *Applied Biosafety*, 10(2), 91-100.

Ms. Meszaros, the senior author of the article selected for the Richard Knudsen Memorial Publication Award, earned her BS and MS from Cleveland State University. She is a Senior Scientist at STERIS

Corp. where she has worked for over a decade, as well as serving the academic community as a Science Instructor at Cuyahoga Community College—also for over a decade.

This original research article was selected for its contribution of knowledge to the field of biosafety. Results of this research quantitatively identified the sterilizing capabilities of hydrogen peroxide vapor across various classes of resilient organisms that were applied to numerous common laboratory surfaces over varied exposure times.

### **Robert I. Gross Memorial Award**

Cassandra Kelly, BS  
New York State Department of Health  
Albany, New York

*Awarded to a student in recognition of academic achievement in biological safety.*

Cassandra Kelly is a Research Scientist and the Biosafety Level 3 Supervisor in the Biodefense Laboratory at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Cassandra received a BS in 1997 from Carleton University and is currently pursuing a PhD in the Biomedical Sciences Department at the State University of New York, Albany. Prior to joining the NYSDOH Biodefense Laboratory in 2002, Ms. Kelly worked at the Canadian Science Center for Human and Animal Health conducting research in prion diseases, hepatitis viruses and emerging blood borne pathogens. Ms. Kelly is involved in the development of new diagnostics for select agents as well as training of laboratorians, first responders and members of the law enforcement communities in New York State.

**Abstract:** Effects of bacillus spore decontamination methods on forensic evidence: an evaluation of decontamination methods: vaporized hydrogen peroxide, formaldehyde, and autoclaving.

Many environmental samples submitted to the New York State Biodefense Laboratory for biothreat testing are often requested to be transferred, following select agent testing, to forensic laboratories in order to proceed with criminal prosecutions. Even after the presence of potential bioterrorism agents have been ruled-out, forensic laboratories may be unwilling to accept samples because they are restricted to working in biosafety level 1 or 2 facilities. In order for sam-

ples to be analyzed safely and expeditiously to the forensic laboratories, all traces of infectious or toxic biological material must first be removed or inactivated. In collaboration with the New York State Police Forensics Investigation Center, a study has been conducted to determine which decontamination method(s) can render a letter/white powder sample free from infectious biological agents while at the same time preserving the integrity of forensic evidence. Several letters seeded with *Bacillus* spores, representative inks, drug surrogates, human hair or DNA, and fingerprints were exposed to three common decontamination methods: vaporized hydrogen peroxide, formaldehyde and steam autoclaving. Subsequent microbiological testing to insure spore inactivation and concomitant forensic analysis to evaluate the integrity of trace evidence has determined which decontamination method will be most useful to safely release and transfer suspect biothreat samples to forensic laboratories for additional testing.

### **John H. Richardson Special Recognition Award**

J. Patrick Condreay, PhD  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

*The award shall be given to an individual in recognition of a specific contribution that has enhanced the American Biological Safety Association and/or the profession of biological safety.*

Patrick Condreay received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from Rice University and his PhD in microbiology from the University of Texas at Austin. For over 20 years he has pursued a career in research, studying the molecular biology of different microorganisms.

Since first becoming an instructor at an ABSA-Eagleson Spring Seminar Series in 1998—where he helped teach the course “Viral Vectors and Biosafety Considerations”—he has helped develop and taught 13 additional courses on similar topics. His ability to convey complex scientific topics that pose increasing challenges to biosafety professionals and his sustained commitment has made him one of the most prolific and sought-after teachers promoting biosafety for ABSA in the last decade. By the close of the Vancouver conference, he will have increased his

number of ABSA or ABSA-related teaching assignments to 16 classes in 7 years, in topics of extreme relevance and importance to ABSA members and biosafety professionals around the globe.

### **Everett Hanel, Jr. Presidential Award**

Robert J. Hawley, PhD  
Midwest Research Institute  
Frederick, Maryland

*The award shall be given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the American Biological Safety Association by promoting the field of biological safety and by fostering the high professional standards of the Association's membership.*

Bob Hawley is a Senior Advisor, for the Midwest Research Institute in Frederick, Maryland, and was previously employed at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, as Biosafety Officer, and later as Chief of the Safety and Radiation Protection Office. He holds

a PhD in Microbiology from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey; an MS in Microbiology from the Catholic University of America, and a BS in Biology from Pennsylvania Military College.

He has authored numerous journal articles and textbook chapters on biosafety and microbiology, and further promotes biosafety by teaching pre-conference courses, serving on ABSA committees and participating in IBCs and IACUCs. He is a Registered Biological Safety Professional serving as the Chair of the Biological Safety Examination Development Committee with the National Registry of Microbiology, and actively encourages biosafety practitioners to pursue registration and certification as Biosafety Professionals. He has expressed his commitment to the biosafety profession in many ways to include being elected President-Elect of ABSA, President of ChABSA, Editorial Review Board member for *Applied Biosafety*, and as an active promoter of biosafety in ASM.

### **Thanks to the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation**

The ABSA Council would like to thank the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation for its continued support of ABSA activities and the field of biosafety. Through the generous support of the Foundation, ABSA was fortunate to have Benjamin J. Weigler, DVM, MPH, PhD, as the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation Lecturer at the 2005 Conference in Vancouver. Dr. Weigler is the Director of Animal Health Resources at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. His presentation was titled "A National Survey of Occupationally Acquired Zoonotic Diseases in Laboratory Animal Workers." He has published an article on this research. See Weigler, B. J., Di Giacomo, R. F., & Alexander, S. (2005, April). A national survey of laboratory animal workers concerning occupational risks for zoonotic diseases. [Journal Article]. *Comparative Medicine*, 55(2), 183-191.

ABSA is also developing an animal biosafety training DVD with the support of the Foundation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work with the Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation in pursuit of safe science.

