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Your Executive Council, Council, and ABSA Office continue to make strides for your organization. The weekly teleconferences with the Executive Council and ABSA Office, and the monthly teleconferences with Council Members, provide an effective means of communication. I have witnessed significant dedication and progress by your elected members and excellent management, direction, and support provided by your ABSA Office. I wish to share with you some of their progress and accomplishments during the past few months:

1. A revision of the *ABSA Policies and Procedures* document is reaching its final stage of review. This document describes the duties of each elected office member, expenses, meetings, committee appointments, and duties of Teams and the Team Leaders. This effort was led by your President-Elect, Chris Thompson.

2. The Historical Committee, led by your Council Member Joe Kozlovac, is pursuing an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Library (NAL) to support the storage and maintenance of biosafety-related historical documents and equipment. For this collection, we are preparing electronic copies of photographs submitted by Manny Barbeito (formerly the National Program Officer for Biosafety at the USDA) and are awaiting a shipment of documents from Jerry Schmidt.

3. One mechanism to promote the discipline of biological safety and recognition of biosafety professionals worldwide involves registration as a biosafety professional (Registered Biosafety Professional, RBP). The Registration Committee, originally chaired by Rich Rebar, is now chaired by Betty Kupskay. We are working closely with ABSA members from the Former Soviet Union countries encouraging them to apply for RBP status. Translation of the RBP application documents and the relevant documents of potential registrants has been accomplished by Craig Reed and his support team. I wish all potential registrants success in their quest for recognition. The ABSA web site displays more of the registration process. Consider submitting your application for evaluation.

4. ABSA now has a Memorandum of Understanding with Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) that formalizes a partnership to enhance laboratory biosafety and biosecurity internationally. With this agreement, ABSA will provide biosafety expertise to support the international initiatives of SNL. Projects may include training, technical con-

sultations, and an ABSA presence at regional conferences organized by SNL. Working through ABSA, Glenn Funk and David Bressler have participated in this endeavor with SNL during the past year.

Some other events you may be interested in include:

1. The Tradeline Conference, *International Conference on Biocontainment Facilities*, will be held in San Diego, California on March 12 and 13. ABSA will send two local ABSA members to represent our organization at this conference.

2. The *Principles and Practices of Biosafety* course will be held in Portland, Oregon during March 12-16. Presently, there are no spaces available for this course. I thank LouAnn Burnett for her work in promoting this effort.

3. The Winter Council Meeting will be held April 19-22 in Los Angeles, California. The Council and the ABSA Office will be exploring various hotels and meeting sites for the 2011 ABSA Conference. Our priorities include not only an acceptable venue, but also the availability of 100-200 hotel rooms within the U.S. Government per diem rate.

4. The *Summer Seminar Series* will be offered July 22-25 in Chicago, Illinois and will be held immediately preceding the Midwest Area Biosafety Network (MABioN) meeting. The *Review Course for Biosafety for Exam in Biological Safety* will be offered July 22-23 followed by two 2-day courses on July 24-25. There have been many requests to hold the review course earlier in the year to allow participants more time for review prior to the examination administered by the National Registry of Microbiology, American Society for Microbiology. Offering this review course in July will serve as a trial to gauge the interest in a summer offering.

5. Your Council has selected the Hyatt Hotel in Denver, Colorado as the site for the 2010 Biological Safety Conference scheduled for September 30 through October 6. We have negotiated 200 hotel rooms at the premium U.S. Government per diem rate (per diem plus 20%). This was the best option they could negotiate.

6. The ABSA Conference in October in Nashville, Tennessee will recognize this year as the 50th anniversary of the *Biological Safety Conference*. LouAnn Burnett and Dan Liberman are leading the efforts for this Conference. Plans are being considered to host a special presentation on the history of the profession (e.g., a Biosafety Roundtable). Invitees, recognized for their contributions to bio-

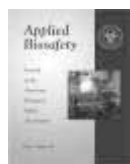
logical safety during the 1960s and subsequent years, will discuss some of their applied research and their experiences. These individuals have provided much of the foundation for what we practice and promote each day. Lodging will be at the Opryland Hotel and adjacent Radisson Hotel. A few years ago, your Council negotiated U.S. Government per diem rates for 40 rooms at the former and 75 rooms at the latter hotel.

Please let me know if you have any issues to be addressed, or if you wish to be involved with our many programs. I continuously seek your comments and suggestions. Also, I recommend you make your hotel reservations for the activities in Nashville as soon as possible and review the ABSA web site for additional information.

New Format for Posting *Applied Biosafety* in the “Members Only” Section of the ABSA Web Site

Applied Biosafety: Journal of the American Biological Safety Association (ISSN 1535-6760) is a peer-review scientific journal committed to promoting global biosafety awareness and best practices to prevent occupational exposures and adverse environmental impacts related to biohazardous releases. A goal of *Applied Biosafety* is to provide a forum to exchange and promote sound biosafety and biosecurity initiatives; publish new research in biosafety; provide information on best biosafety practices, policy issues and position papers; and provide a forum for biosafety and biosecurity information exchange to include editorials, commentaries, and reviews. We welcome and encourage submissions which further the profession of biosafety, biotechnology, research, medicine, and all related professions.

Do you need an article from an archived issue of *Applied Biosafety*? To make it easier to find, the web posting has been redesigned. Go to the “Members Only” section and click on an issue to bring up the table of contents. There is a link to each individual article. We hope this new, improved posting system will be helpful to members.



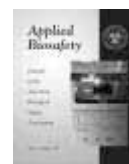
Volume 11
Number 1
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Volume 11
Number 2
2006 ➤



Volume 11
Number 3
2006 ➤



Volume 11
Number 4
2006 ➤



Volume 10
Number 1
2005 ➤



Volume 10
Number 2
2005 ➤



Volume 10
Number 3
2005 ➤



Volume 10
Number 4
2005 ➤



Volume 9
Number 1
2004 ➤



Volume 9
Number 2
2004 ➤



Volume 9
Number 3
2004 ➤



Volume 9
Number 4
2004 ➤