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In a few months we will convene in Nashville, Tennessee for our 50th Annual Biological Safety Conference—this event should be a memorable one. The Local Arrangements Committee and the Scientific Program Committee have been quite busy with their event planning. Please be sure to finalize your lodging arrangements at the Opryland Hotel, or the adjacent Radisson Hotel as soon as possible.

The ABSA Council met in Los Angeles, California between April 19-22 to review Association issues (such as finances; updates from committees, task forces, and the CEN (European Committee for Standardization) workshop; update of the strategic plan, and policies and procedures). We also completed our visits to hotels and meeting sites for the 2011 ABSA Conference. Your Council has selected the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California as the venue for our conference that is taking place October 23 through November 3. The lodging rate for a single room is \$220.00 with 125 rooms available at the U.S. Government per diem rate plus 25%. The hotel is located just 20 minutes from the Orange County Airport (John Wayne Airport), and one hour from Los Angeles International Airport. Additional information will be made available on the ABSA web site. These dates will not conflict with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science Meeting in San Diego, California from October 2-6.

Dr. Bob Ellis, Colorado State University (CSU), informed the Council that he is pursuing offering a two-year graduate program in biological safety at CSU beginning January 2008. The degree conferred would be a Master of Science in Microbiology with a concentration in Biological Safety. The program includes a residency requirement, biological safety courses, a practicum (designed to give students supervised practical application of a previously studied theory) and completion of a thesis. Dr. Glenn Funk, the ABSA Technical Lead, provided an update on the CEN workshop held in Brussels, Belgium on April 12-13 where Patty Olinger represented ABSA. Over 50 participants attended this workshop to provide input towards the development of a global Laboratory Biorisk Management Standard. This document is expected to be available August 1, 2007 for public comment.

Joe Kozlovac and I recently met with the Head of Special Collections, at the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Library (NAL) to facilitate the storage and maintenance of historical documents and

equipment. ABSA will contract with the NAL for the deposit of materials into their newly-constructed facility. We anticipate this one-time cost to be about \$6,000.00. Although there is no maintenance fee for storage of materials, there is a yearly fee anticipated to be about \$1,000.00, for adding materials. The NAL will catalog all materials and set up links so the collection listing can be placed on the ABSA web site. The web site link will include photographs so viewers see items in the collection. Although the historical collections submitted by ABSA become the property of the NAL, any item can be released for loan. A processing fee will be charged to those individuals wishing to access historical items. This fee will be the responsibility of the individual requesting material(s). If you have any materials, documents, or equipment that you would like to add to the ABSA collection, please contact Joe Kozlovac at jkozlovac@ars.usda.gov.

Through a Memorandum of Agreement between ABSA and Sandia National Laboratories, I attended the Sixth International Biennial Conference of the Pakistan Society for Microbiology (PSM) during March 18-21 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Dr. Reynolds Salerno and I presented a workshop lecture entitled *Biological Risk and Risk Management—An Introduction to Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity*. In response to questions from the participants, I had the opportunity to discuss many issues including the organization devoted to the promotion of biological safety—the American Biological Safety Association—both in the U.S. and internationally. I specifically commented on the importance of promoting interactions between those individuals having biological safety responsibilities including research scientists and technicians in their respective facilities. I encouraged participants to consider pursuing a formal relationship with ABSA, as an International Affiliate. I further suggested they seek additional information from our web site. I also visited the laboratory facilities at Quaid-i-Azam University and met with students, many with biological safety responsibilities, and encouraged them to become involved with ABSA.

Through sponsorship from the International Council for the Life Sciences in Washington, DC, I attended the European Biosafety Association's 10th Annual Conference the last week in March in Heidelberg, Germany. I attended a pre-conference workshop entitled *Decontamination*, offered by our colleagues from the United Kingdom. The conference was attended by about 125 people from

Europe, Canada, and the Far East. Attendance at this conference gave me the opportunity to promote ABSA and to interact with biological safety professionals from around the world. Their next conference will be in Florence, Italy, April 3-4, 2008. I also attended the 14th meeting of the International Biosafety Working Group (IBWG) on March 30. During the *Coordination of Biosafety Initiatives* Roundtable, I presented and discussed some of the current and planned activities of ABSA including our mentorship program, defining the credentials of a qualified biosafety professional, promoting alliances, and participation in the Laboratory Certification Program.

The following are three items for your continuing education calendar: the *Review Course* will be offered on July 22-23 followed by the *Summer Seminar Series* on July 24-25 and the Midwest Area Biosafety Network (MABioN) 3rd Annual Symposium on July 26-28. All three will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

Again, I seek your support! Please let me know if you have any issues to be addressed, or if you wish to be involved with any committees or programs. I continuously seek your comments and suggestions.

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.



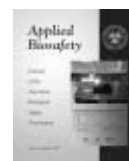
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