EDITOR'S PAGE

What distinguishes a biological safety professional from a non-professional? One important characteristic is that the professional knows where to find and use technical resources on biological safety. Members of ABSA are kept well informed by the Newsletter and Journal, use the ABSA website, and on their office bookshelves they have available the most relevant biosafety articles and books. First and foremost among the books, of course, is the CDC/NIH guidelines *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (BMBL) the 4th edition of which is being printed as this article is being written.

Three years ago the ABSA Council and the Long Range Planning Committee under the leadership of President Joseph Van Houten developed the ABSA Strategic Plan. One goal of that plan was to develop a number of publications for ABSA. The Publications Committee, chaired by Jonathan Y. Richmond, was established to develop the first publications. A year ago our first publication, the *ABSA/CDC 5th National Symposium on Biosafety: Rational Basis for Biocontainment Proceedings*, edited by Jonathan Y. Richmond, rolled off the printing presses. It is still available from ABSA. This year our second publication *Anthology of Biosafety I: Perspectives on Laboratory Design* is now available. In this current issue of our journal we have reproduced four articles from this anthology on the popular subject of designing BSL-3 and 4 laboratories and the use of primary containment devices. The third publication *Anthology of Biosafety II: The Application of Principles* is well into development. After the 6th National Symposium “Prudent Practices for the New Millenium” which is scheduled for February of 2000 we hope to have our fourth publication, which would be the Proceedings of this symposium.

The articles in these publications are written by well known experts who share with us with their insight and detailed knowledge in a wide variety of biological safety subjects. They offer each of us the opportunity to expand our knowledge base in biological safety and they provide us with relevant and timely information which should enhance our skills and professionalism. Hopefully, each of our new publications will join the BMBL on our biological safety professional’s bookshelves.

These publications are the result of the combined efforts of the members of the Council, the Long Range Planning Committee, the authors, and the many ABSA members who have contributed to them. In particular, we must recognize Jonathan Y. Richmond whose central role in the development and production of each publication has enriched us all.

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