

**ABSA**

American Biological Safety Association

1200 Allanson Road • Mundelein, IL 60060-3808 • 866-425-1385 • 847-949-1517
Fax: 847-566-4580 • E-mail: absa@absa.org • Web Site: www.absa.org**President**

Karen B. Byers, MS, RBP, CBSP
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
450 Brookline Avenue—LGM 18
Boston, MA 02215
617-632-3890
karen_byers@dfci.harvard.edu

President-Elect

LouAnn Burnett, MS, CBSP
Sandia National Laboratories
International Bio Threat Reduction
P.O. Box 5800, MS 1363
Albuquerque, NM 87185
505-284-4133
lcburne@sandia.gov

Secretary

Betty Kupskay, MSc, RBP
University of Minnesota
W-160 Boynton Health Service
410 Church Street, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-626-5590
kupsk001@umn.edu

Treasurer

Rosamond Rutledge-Burns, MS, CBSP
National Institute of Standards & Technology
100 Bureau Drive, MS 1730
Building 301, Room B116
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1730
301-975-5819
rburns@nist.gov

Past-President

Benjamin A. Fontes, MPH, CBSP
Yale University
Office of Environmental Health & Safety
1st Floor
135 College Street
New Haven, CT 06510
203-737-5009
benjamin.fontes@yale.edu

Councilors

Marian Downing, RBP, CBSP (13)
Michelle McKinney, CBSP (12)
Barbara Fox Nellis, RBP, CBSP (11)
Richard Rebar, RBP, CBSP (12)

2011 Biosafety Conference Chairpersons

Scientific Program Committee
Richard C. Fink, CBSP
Robert A. Heckert, DVM, PhD, CBSP
Exhibitors Advisory Committee
Stephen Sowa, MS
Local Arrangements Committee
Natasha Griffith, MS
Mimi Ton, MPH

Executive Director

Edward J. Stygar, III, MBA, CAE
ed@absaoffice.org

To: United States Congress

Dear Elected Representatives,

The American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) is requesting continued support for biosafety and biosecurity training initiatives for research and diagnostic programs in the United States and the world. ABSA is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to promote biosafety as a scientific discipline and to serve the needs of biosafety professionals. Additional information about ABSA is available on our website at www.absa.org.

Training programs are more critical than ever due to the increasing global research and public health effort to find better tests, treatments and vaccines to combat infectious disease threats to global health. Laboratories conducting these activities have an urgent need for qualified, well-trained researchers and support staff to prevent occupational and community exposure as well as accidental or intentional release of the pathogens involved. Because society has a critical need for improvements in infectious disease detection, treatment and prevention, we also need effective biosafety training programs to reduce the biosafety and biosecurity risk of these operations. Please fund programs that are providing this vital service. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Byers, MS, RBP, CBSP
ABSA President, 2010-2011