

# American Biological Safety Association

## History and Update



**ABSA** American Biological Safety Association

[www.absa.org](http://www.absa.org)

# ABSA History

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Biological Safety Conference was April 18, 1955 at Camp Detrick in Frederick, Maryland.
- ABSA officially incorporated in 1984
  - Goals:
    - provide a professional association that represents the interests and needs of practitioners of biological safety internationally
    - provide a forum for the continued and timely exchange of biosafety information



# ABSA History

- Volunteer managed 1984 -1991
- Management Company 1991-2006
- Self managed by full time staff 2006 to present



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# ABSA Membership

- 1,400 members
  - 289 international members in 37 countries
- Membership makeup
  - Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals
  - Microbiologists, Veterinarians, Industrial Hygienists, Engineers, Architects, Nurses, Medical Doctors
- Representing:
  - Academia, government laboratories, private industry, research foundations, pharmaceutical companies, consultants, government agencies and more...



# Biosafety Credentials

## Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP)

- Based on education and experience
- Application and recommendations

## Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)

- Exam administered through American Society for Microbiology/National Registry of Certified Microbiologists (SM/NRCM)
- Certification granted by ABSA

**Maintenance points can be attained by attending local biosafety conferences!**



# Publications/Resources

- *Anthology of Biosafety Series I-XIII*
- *Applied Biosafety: Journal of the American Biological Safety Association*
  - **Submit Articles: <http://absa.org/pubabj.html>**
- 50th Annual Conference Historical Roundtable DVD
- Animal Biosafety DVD's
- ABSA.ORG
- Listserv: biosafety, biosecurity, occupational health



# ABSA Courses

- Annual Biological Safety Conference – Pre Conference
  - October 17-23, 2013 in Kansas City, Missouri
- Principles & Practices of Biosafety Course
  - July 21-26, 2013 in Portland, Oregon
  - February 23-28, 2014 in San Antonio, Texas
- Online Advanced Biosafety and Review Course (for CBSP)
- Leadership Institute for Biosafety Professionals
- Distance Learning/Webinars
  - Call for Webinars at [absa.org](http://absa.org)



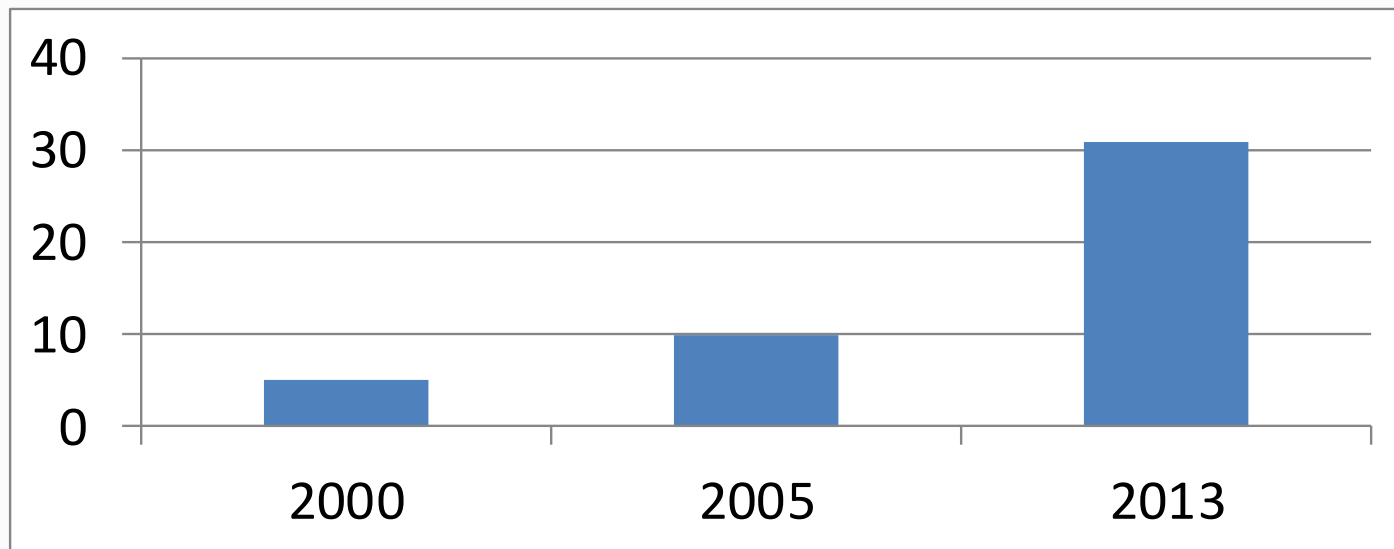




# Global Growth

2000: 5 National and Regional Biosafety Associations

2013: 30+ National and Regional Biosafety Associations



# Core Purpose

ABSA is dedicated to promoting and expanding biological safety expertise



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# ABSA 2013 Strategic Plan

## *Core Organizational Values:*

- Leading the profession
- Absolute integrity
- Collaboration and community
- High standards of excellence
- Promote safety science



# Focus for 2013

- Teams and Committees
  - Restructure as needed - **complete**
  - Assign specific plan objectives - **complete**
    - Objectives and time-lines agreed to – **in progress**
  - Get more new members involved – **in progress**
    - Assign them to an existing member
- Find creative ways to reward volunteers - **TBD**



# Focus for 2013 II

- Leadership Development - **In Progress**
  - Succession planning
  - Assign a second for each team lead and a co-chair for each committee
  - Develop easily understood expectations
  - Develop maximum term limits for team leads and chairs



# Focus for 2013 III

- By-Laws - **In Progress**
  - Revise and clarify
- P&P – **In Progress**
  - Expand and clarify
  - Develop complete roles and responsibilities for all participants
  - Stress as a training tool



# ABSA High Containment Accreditation Program

- For non Select Agent BSL3 and ABSL3 Laboratories
- Voluntary program
- Recognition of excellence and compliance with high standards
- Guidance in generating processes and policy
- Create a safer environment for their organization, employees, research animals, and the community.
- <http://absa.org/aiahclap.htm>
- Inspections will start soon!





# ABSA



## 56th Annual Biological Safety Conference

Sheraton Crown Center • Kansas City, Missouri

October 17-23, 2013

[www.absaconference.org](http://www.absaconference.org)

## ABSA 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Biosafety Conference

- Kansas City Missouri
- October 17-23, 2013
- Sheraton Crown Center
- 30 pre conference courses (4 full days of courses)
- 3 days of papers, keynotes, and panel discussion
- 100 exhibitors showcasing biosafety and biosecurity products
- *Invaluable networking* opportunities to share and learn from other biosafety and biosecurity professionals
- Opportunities to get involved and engaged



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# 2014 CDC Symposium

“Biosafety and Operations Management –  
*Thinking Outside the Box*”

- When: January 25-29, 2014
- Where: Crown Plaza Ravinia  
4355 Ashford Dunwoody Rd  
Atlanta, GA 30346

**Look for more information to come!**



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