

# ABSA – State of Your Organization

Chesapeake Affiliate of the American  
Biological Safety Association (ChABSA)

## ChABSA Scientific Symposium

June 14, 2007  
Columbia, Maryland



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## ABSA



- The American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) was founded in 1984 to promote biosafety as a scientific discipline and serve the growing needs of biosafety professionals throughout the world.
- Goals:
  - provide a professional association that represents the interests and needs of practitioners of biological safety
  - provide a forum for the continued and timely exchange of biosafety information.



Arnold G. Wedum, M.D.

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## ABSA Office – Mundelein, IL

**Edward John Stygar, III**  
Executive Director



**Barbara Minarik**  
Accountant/Data  
Processing  
Manager

**Karen Savage Bigelow**  
Publications  
Production Editor  
and Advertising  
Sales

**Julie Savage  
(Mary Buckley)**  
Meeting and  
Operations  
Manager

**Diane Johnson**  
Team and  
Committee Liaison

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## 2007 Council

- Glenn Funk, Past-President
- Bob Hawley, President
- Christina Thompson, President-Elect
- Paul Meechan, Secretary
- Leslie Delpin, Treasurer
- Joe Kozlovac, Councilor
- Joe Kanabrocki, Councilor
- Bob Ellis, Councilor
- Janet Peterson, Councilor

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## 2007 Council



Glenn Funk  
(Consultant)



Bob Hawley  
(MRI)



Chris Thompson  
(Consultant)



Paul Meechan  
(Merck)



Leslie Delpin  
(Univ of CT)



Joe Kozlovac  
(USDA)



Joe Kanabrocki  
(Washington Univ)



Bob Ellis  
(CO State Univ)



Janet Peterson  
(Univ of MD)

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## Membership Statistics

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
■ Number of members:	1048	1208	1375	<b>1435</b>
■ New members:	220	136	115	<b>96</b>
■ Countries represented:	27	26	30	<b>32</b>
■ Conference Attendees:	609	611	631	<b>714*</b>
■ Pre-conference Courses:	21	28	22	<b>23</b>
■ Pre-conference Course Attendees:	665	785	844	<b>853*</b>

\*Projected

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## Strategic Performance Areas

- Professional Development
- Defining the Profession
- Management
- Alliance Relations
- Technical and Regulatory Affairs
- Conference Services

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## Current Projects

- Risk Group tables updated for website (maintaining currency is continual)
- Alliances:
  - AALAS
  - CSHEMA
  - OSHA
  - WHO
  - AIHA
  - EPA
  - USDA
  - UN
  - APIC
  - Griffin Foundation
  - FBI
  - SNL
  - ASM
- In progress: CDC, NIH, NEHA (National Environmental Health Association), ICLN (Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks), ACS (American Chemical Society), APHIS, ARS, FSIS.

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## Current Events and Projects

- Participating in the 2008 CDC-ABSA-Eagleson Symposium Steering Committee
  - Symposium Topic: *Biosafety Issues in Public Health, Research and Health Care Communities*
- Hosting “Biosafety” listserve
- Electronic systems:
  - Scientific Program abstracts
  - Awards nominations
  - Journal submissions (in progress)


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## Events Participation



- Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference, *Emerging Trends in Biosafety*, Singapore March 5-8, 2007  

- *Tradeline Biocontainment Conference*, San Diego, CA March 12-13, 2007  

- *Sixth International Pakistan Biennial Conference of Pakistan Society for Microbiology*, Islamabad, Pakistan March 18-21, 2007  

- ABSA Mid-Winter Council Meeting, Los Angeles, CA April 20-22, 2007  


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## Current Projects

### ■ International Biosafety and Biosecurity Laboratory Standard Development Initiative

- Sponsors:
  - ABSA; Dr. Stefan Wagener (Chair)
  - EBSA; Dr. Gary Burns (Vice Chair)
- Baseline documents:
  - World Health Organization (WHO) *Laboratory Biosafety Manual*
  - WHO *Laboratory Biosecurity Guidance*
- Managed by Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
- Predicated on understanding and managing the risks
- Standard is management system-based; will not replace national regulatory requirements

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## Current Projects

- Exploring an IBC Accreditation Program
- Establishing an archive at the USDA Library in Beltsville, MD for ABSA historical information and equipment (coordinated by Joe Kozlovac, USDA)
- Developing an Animal Biosafety Level Video



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## Future Projects

- **Expand outreach programs** to universities to promote biosafety as a discipline
- **Expand the Mentorship Program** at different facilities (“Visiting Scientist” or “Apprenticeship”)
- **Generate income** through grants and gifts to support ABSA efforts (Archive at the USDA, Mentorship Program)
- **Make ABSA more international** (Former Soviet Union countries, Middle East countries, other areas in need of biosafety) – **International Outreach**
- **Provide electronic subscriptions** of *Applied Biosafety* to underserved countries

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## 2007 Annual Conference

- Nashville, TN; October 7-10
- Pre-conference Courses, October 4-7\*
- Electronic Abstract Submissions
- New Members Meeting, October 7
- Details at [www.absa.org](http://www.absa.org)

\*<http://www.absa.org/conprecon.html>

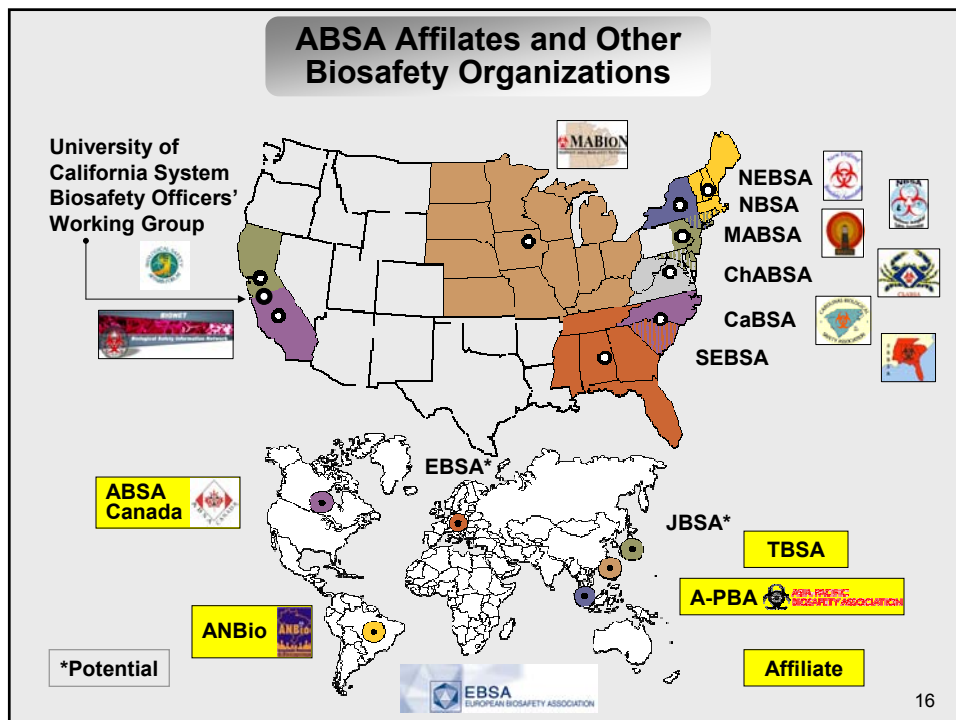
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# Affiliate Relations Committee

- John Balog, Chairman
- Affiliate Booth

10 U.S. Affiliates  
4 International Affiliates

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## Benefits of Membership

- *Applied Biosafety*, quarterly journal
- ABSA Anthology of Biosafety Series (member discount)
- ABSA Website ([www.absa.org](http://www.absa.org))
- Discounted annual conference and course fees
- Notices of special events and other biosafety-related information
- Registration and certification programs
- Great Networking!

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## Concluding Remarks

- We always need your help – **Become more involved!**



Volunteer for Committee(s) service



Contribute an article(s) to *Applied Biosafety*



Apply for **R**egistration as a **B**iosafety **P**rofessional



Apply to the NRM for certification (Specialist Microbiologist in Biological Safety Microbiology); upon success, apply to ABSA for the designation **C**ertified **B**iological **S**afety **P**rofessional

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## ***ABSA – State of Your Organization***

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**Questions & Comments?**

