



**ABSA**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
*The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity*

# ABSA International Update

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Past President, ABSA International



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

# ABSA International

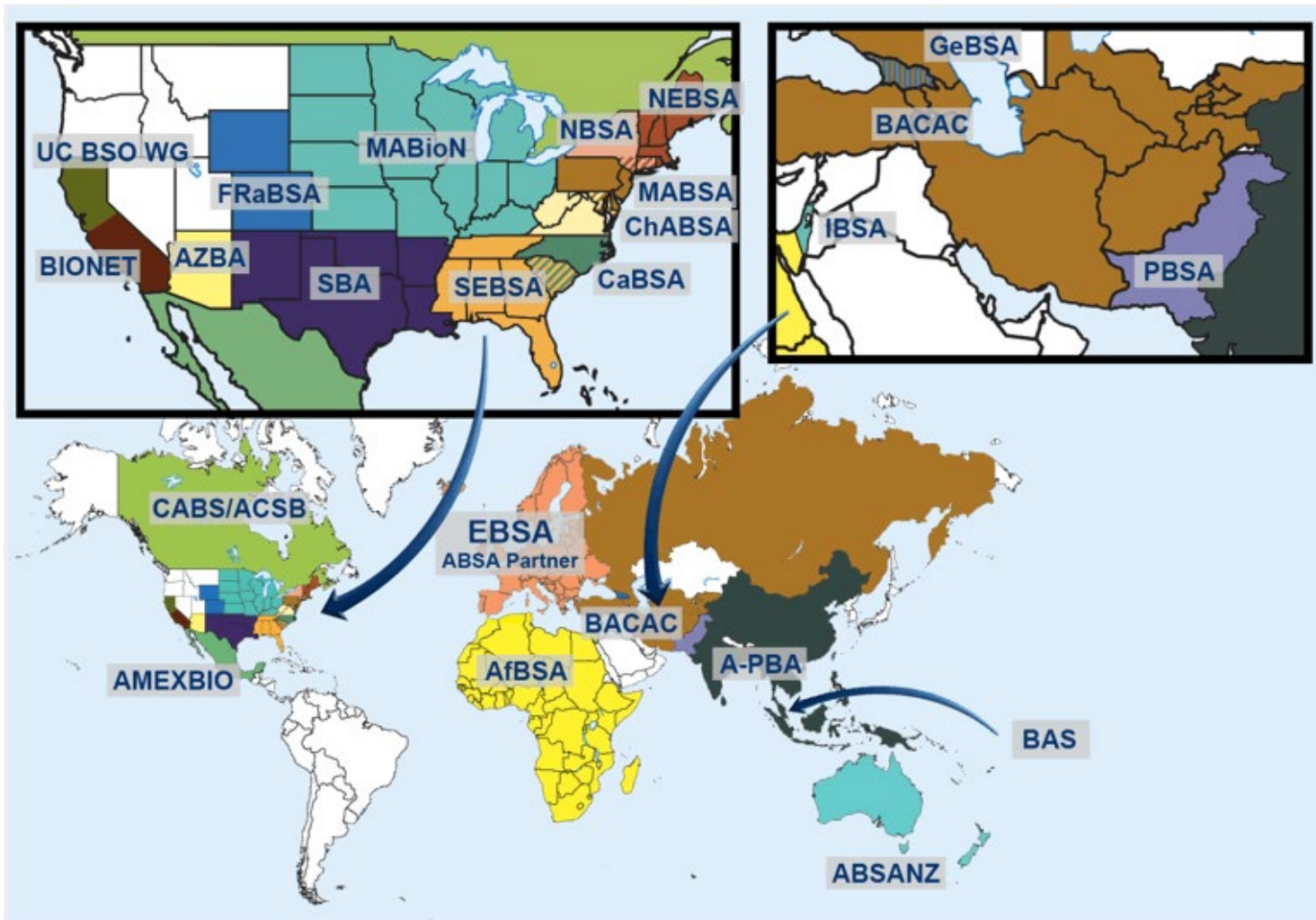
- 1506 members
  - 85 international members
  - 27 countries
  - 440 credentialed professionals
- Purpose:
  - To promote biosafety and biosecurity as a scientific discipline
  - To serve the growing needs of biosafety and biosecurity professionals around the world
  - Provide a forum for the continuous and timely exchange of biosafety and biosecurity information



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# ABSA Affiliates



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# 2018 Conference in Charleston, SC

- 796 seats filled in 26 professional development courses
- 714 conference attendees
- 147 international attendees from 39 countries
- Interviews for videos



# 2019 USDA ARS Symposium

- 95 seats filled in 7 pre-symposium courses
- 156 symposium attendees
- 31 international attendees from 10 countries



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# Collaboration With Government Agencies & Other Organizations

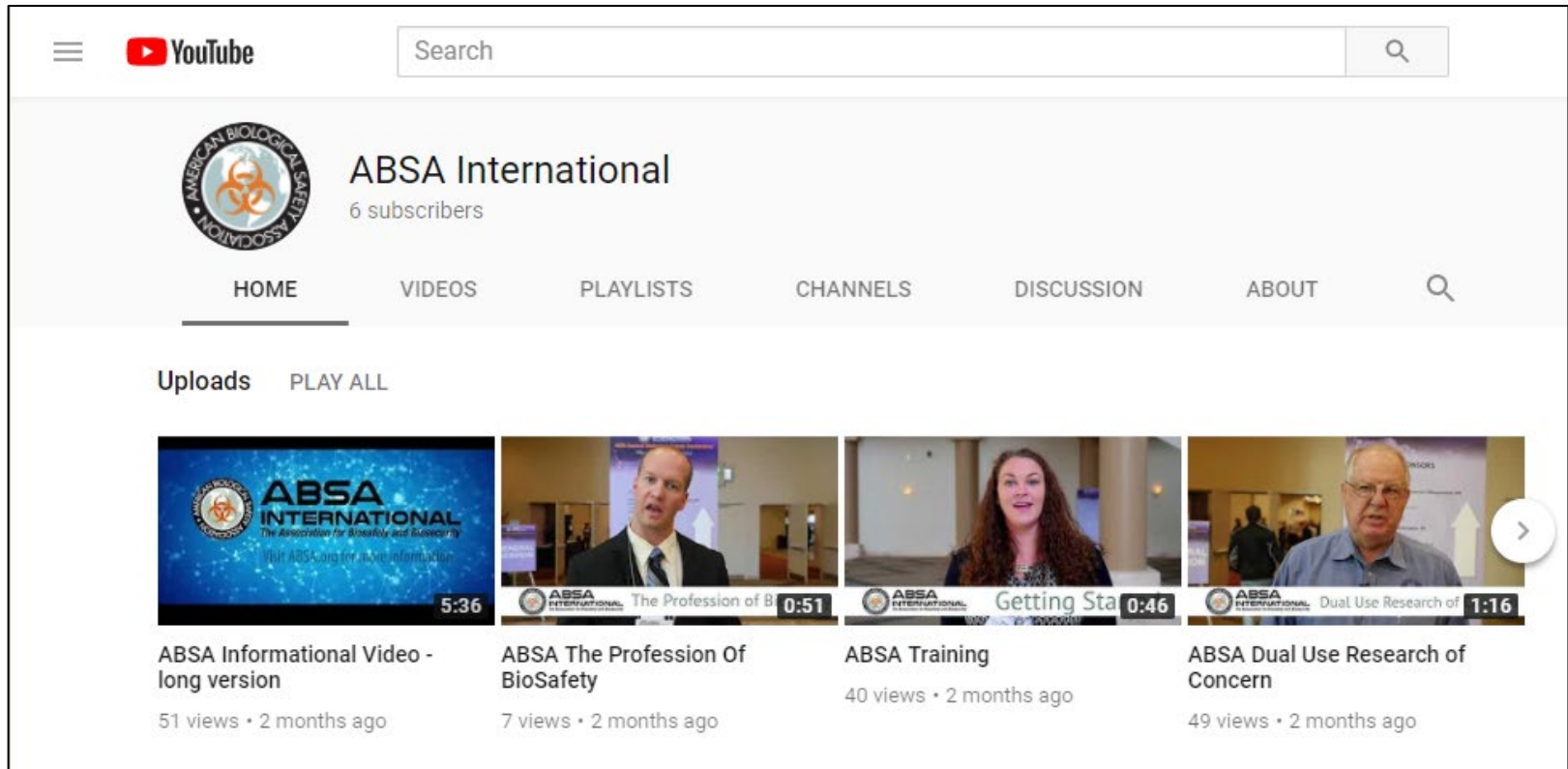
- Biological Select Agents & Toxins Community Advocate Committee
  - Webinars
  - Select Agent Community Forum
  - Workshop after the ABSA conference
  - **Contract is extended for five years**
- Special offering of Principles and Practices of Biosafety
- National Biosafety Stewardship Month
- TC 212, WG 5, ISO 35001, *“Biorisk management for laboratories and other related organizations”*



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# ABSA International YouTube Channel



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for ABSA International. At the top, there is a search bar and the YouTube logo. The channel name "ABSA International" is displayed with a biohazard logo and "6 subscribers". Below this are navigation tabs: HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, CHANNELS, DISCUSSION, and ABOUT. The "Uploads" section is active, showing a "PLAY ALL" button and a row of four video thumbnails. Each thumbnail includes a video title, a duration, and view/viewer information.

Video Title	Duration	Views / Time
ABSA Informational Video - long version	5:36	51 views • 2 months ago
ABSA The Profession Of BioSafety	0:51	7 views • 2 months ago
ABSA Training	0:46	40 views • 2 months ago
ABSA Dual Use Research of Concern	1:16	49 views • 2 months ago



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# Principles & Practices of Biosafety

- Comprehensive, interactive 5-day course to introduce the essential elements of biosafety
- Limited to 48 participants
- Next offerings:
  - Feb 2020: San Antonio, TX
  - July 2020: Portland, OR



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# Distance Learning



- In 2018: 20 webinars; 617 attendees
- Upcoming Webinars
  - **Virus-based Gene Transfer Vectors** – Sept 24 & 26, 2019
  - **Animal Handler Risk Assessment** - October 11, 2019
  - **Demystifying the Organizational Culture of Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Responsible Conduct in the Life Sciences Research: A Conceptual Model and Self-Assessment Methodology** - October 17, 2019
  - **Travel and Field Study Medicine** - November 7, 2019



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# Advanced Biosafety Training Series

- Self-paced on-line training
- Designed for:
  - Preparing for the exam for the Certified Biological Safety Professional credential
  - Individuals with an intermediate to advanced understanding of the field of biological safety interested in expanding knowledge in certain areas

**Module 1** > - Risk Assessment and Hazard Identification: Infectious Agents, rDNA & Occupational Health Issues

**Module 2** > - Regulatory Aspects Pertinent to Risk Assessment: NIH Guidelines, Select Agents & Animal Biosafety

**Module 3** > - Facility Design & Large Scale Biosafety Issues

**Module 4** > - Disinfection, Decontamination & Sterilization

**Module 5** > - Work Practices, Equipment Biohazards and Personal Protective Equipment

**Module 6** > - Equipment, Biological Safety Cabinets & Bioaerosols

**Module 7** > - Regulatory Aspects, Standards, Guidelines, Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) & Emergency Response

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



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# Publications



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# Other Resources On ABSA.org

**RISK  
GROUP  
DATABASE**



**GET THE APP!**

## Resources

[Training Tools >](#)

[Biosafety Links >](#)

[Ebola Information >](#)

[Animal Biosafety Videos >](#)

[Intro to Biosafety Curriculum >](#)

[ABSA/OSHA Fact Sheets >](#)

## LAI Database



Laboratory  
Acquired  
Infections



## Job Board

Find a Job  
Post a Job

## Biosafety Buyer's Guide



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# Professional Credentials

- Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP)
  - Assessment of education plus professional experience
- Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)
  - Assessment of education plus professional experience
  - Pass CBSP exam
  - ABSA now fully manages the exam
- Credential Maintenance Program
  - Accumulate 40 CM points over 5 year period



# Biosafety Career Entry and Professional Development Task Force

**Purpose:** Identify and create resources to:

- Promote biosafety as a career
- Have a clear roadmap of ways to enter the profession and earn a credential
- Maintain credentials in a cost-effective manner
- Develop key leadership and management skills needed as individual's progress in their career

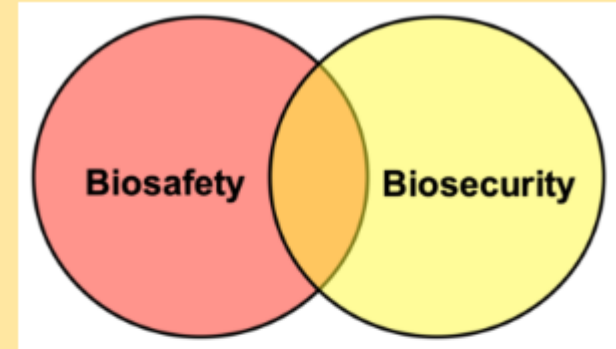


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# Biosecurity Task Force

- “How can ABSA International establish the global standard for biosecurity?”
- Task Force 2.0 has completed its work and recommendations.
- A new committee is in place to implement the biosecurity credential.



## What is biosecurity?

Biological security, biosecurity, is the risk- and threat-based control measures established to prevent the unauthorized access, misuse, loss, theft, diversion and intentional release of valuable biological materials, pathogens, toxins, information, expertise, equipment, technology and intellectual property that have the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, plants, the environment, public safety or national security.



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# 1<sup>st</sup> Biosecurity Symposium

**May 12-15, 2020**

The Renaissance Depot Hotel  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



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# 2019 Biosafety and Biosecurity Month

*“Beyond the Lab: Increasing the Visibility of Biosafety and Biosecurity”*


*October 2019*


The 2019 Biosafety and Biosecurity Month is centered around outreach, education and training, school visits, supporting the STEM disciplines in teaching and learning, and how biosafety and biosecurity professionals are more than compliance people.

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**OCTOBER 2019**  
Biosafety and Biosecurity Month

**Beyond the Lab:**  
Increasing the Visibility of Biosafety and Biosecurity

<https://absa.org/event/2019-biosafety-month/>  
#biosafety\_biosecuritymonth

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# ABSIA INTERNATIONAL

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## 62nd Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Conference

Birmingham - Jefferson Convention Complex

Birmingham, Alabama

November 15-20, 2019

- 3 days of professional development courses
  - Opportunities to get involved and engaged
    - 3 days of papers, keynotes, posters and panel discussions



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# Questions?



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