

2026 Canadian Biosafety Symposium Program

MONDAY, September 21, 2026

8:30 am - 4:30 pm	<p>Pre-symposium Workshop Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Biorisk Management Stefan Wagener, Biorisk Management International Ltd (BRMI)</p> <p><i>Delta C</i></p>
8:30 am - 12:00 pm	<p>Pre-symposium Workshop Operationalizing Safety: Risk Management in Containment Design Sandy Ellis, Rachel Gamble, Gilles Tremblay, Pond & Co</p> <p><i>Delta B</i></p>
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	<p>Lunch</p>
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<p>Pre-symposium Workshop Strategic Integration of Laboratory Operations, Risk, Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity for Facilities in Canada Ryan Gregory, Aurel Tamburri - Merrick Canada ULC Eoin O'Grady - University of Calgary</p> <p><i>Delta B</i></p>
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	<p>BESWG Meeting (Members only) <i>Delta B</i></p>
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	<p>Exhibitor Networking Reception <i>Delta A, Foyer</i></p>

TUESDAY, September 22, 2026 - Delta BC

7:30 am - 8:30 am	<p>Registration and Breakfast <i>Delta A, Foyer</i></p>
8:30 am - 8:45 am	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks Meghan Allen, Tom Walus CABS-ACSB</p>
8:45 am - 9:45 am	<p>Keynote Address Ban the Biofilm! Michelle Alfa, Ph.D., FCCM (retired)</p>
9:45 am - 10:15 am	<p>Characteristics of affected persons in human pathogen and toxin exposure incidents in Canada from 2016-2024 Antoinette Davis, Public Health Agency of Canada</p>
10:15 am - 10:35 am	<p>Coffee Break <i>Delta A, Foyer</i></p>
10:35 am - 11:00 am	<p>Digital Tools for Biosafety Officers: Improving Inspection Consistency, Deficiency, Tracking and Audit Readiness Jae Bean, University of Regina</p>
11:00 am - 11:30 am	<p>It Takes A Village - Raising a Containment Level 3 Facility</p>

		Eoin O'Grady, University of Calgary and Aurel Tamburri, Merrick Canada
11:30 am - 11:50 am		Clinical Biosafety Essentials: Bridging the Gap Between Research Laboratories and Healthcare Environments Allison Reeme, Acacia Safety Consulting, Inc.
11:50 am - 12:05 pm		Meet the Exhibitors - 1 Minute Pitch
12:05 pm - 1:05 pm		Lunch Break <i>Delta C, Foyer</i>
1:05 pm - 1:25 pm		CABS-ACSB Recognition Awards Meghan Allen, Tom Walus, CABS-ACSB
1:25 pm - 1:45 pm		TMU's Response to the Ongoing Regulatory Mandates for Biosafety and Refresher Training: A Snapshot of our Evolving Training Program Tanya Vlasklain and Patricia Yu, Toronto Metropolitan University
1:45 pm - 2:15 pm		Biocontainment Engineering Science Working Group (BESWG) Vincent-Olivier Faullem, Amesh Roy, PHAC
2:15 pm - 2:35 pm		Laboratory Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Biosafety Professionals Julianne Barron, Science & Safety Consulting
2:35 pm - 2:55 pm		Coffee Break <i>Delta A, Foyer</i>
2:55 pm - 3:15 pm		TBD
3:15 pm - 3:35 pm		Integrating High Containment Facilities into Institutional Frameworks; A Collaborative Approach from Design to Operation Morgan Hiebert, University of Manitoba
3:35 pm - 3:45 pm		Conclusion and Wrap Up
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm		Canadian Association for Biological Safety/L'Association Canadienne Pour La Sécurité Biologique (CABS-ACSB) Annual General Meeting (Virtual and In Person)

WEDNESDAY, September 23, 2026 - Delta BC

7:30 am - 8:30 am		Continental Breakfast <i>Delta A, Foyer</i>
8:30 am - 9:30 am		Keynote Address TBD Cam Ewart, VIDO
9:30 am - 10:00 am		Dry Fogging Jay Krishnan, National Microbiology Laboratory (PHAC)
10:00 am - 10:20 am		Coffee Break <i>Delta A, Foyer</i>
10:20 am - 10:45 am		Navigating the Safety Maze - Lessons from the Implementation of Hazard Assessment and Control

		Meghan Allen, Canadian Light Source
10:45 am - 11:15 am		Benchmarking Facilities to Establish Sustainable Laboratory Programming, Design, Construction and Operations in Low and Middle Income Countries Sandy Ellis, Gilles Tremblay, Pond & Co
11:15am - 12:00 pm		Amendments to the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (HPTA) Antoinette Davis, Public Health Agency of Canada
12:00 pm - 1:00pm		Lunch <i>Delta A, Foyer</i>
1:00 pm - 1:15pm		ABSA International Update: Supporting the Biosafety and Biosecurity Profession Anne-Sophie Brocard, ABSA International
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm		Bringing Biosecurity to the Table: Lessons from a Research Threat and Crisis Exercise Kristen Carrigan, McMaster University
1:45 pm - 2:10pm		Union/Joint Health and Safety Committees Tackle Hazards Dorothy Wigmore
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm		Coffee Break <i>Foyer</i>
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm		Signal vs. Noise: Lessons from Two Decades in Biosafety on What Actually Makes Programs Effective Ayoob Ghalami, University of Toronto
3:00 pm - 3:25 pm		What Is So Special About Special Pathogens? Erica Susky, Charlotte Products
3:25 pm - 3:50 pm		Navigating Prion Biosafety in Clinical Laboratories Stephanie Booth, University of Manitoba
3:50 pm - 4:00 pm		Closing Remarks Tom Walus CABS-ACSB