

2018 Canadian Association for Biological Safety Symposium

Winnipeg, Manitoba

4-hour Biosafety Program Management Workshop

September 11, 2018 1 to 4:30 pm

Canadian Biosafety Program Analytics Workshop

All biosafety programs are confronted with three operational “true-isms”:

1. Successful biosafety programs function largely in the realm of prevention, so programs need to be adept at objectively demonstrating the amount of resources necessary to “make nothing happen”, such as injuries, illnesses and exposures.
2. What gets measured is perceived to be managed effectively.
3. Comparison is the “mother of insight” for administrators

This workshop will address these issues through the active engagement of participants to begin to answer some critical questions plaguing the biosafety community, such as:

1. What are the key institutional drivers that influence biosafety program resourcing?
2. Where might this data reside and how might it be assembled for optimal analysis and interpretation?
3. What parameters should biosafety programs be collecting beyond those for regulatory compliance?
4. What types of comparisons might be possible and valid?

Participants in the workshop are asked to come prepared with the types of data they collect for their programs and to actively engage in the dialogue so that the collective knowledge of the group can be leveraged. Each topic of conversation will include a brief presentation to display of examples currently in use at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston’s (UTHealth) Biosafety Program (UTHealth BP). Given the current lack of consensus regarding biosafety program operational characteristics, the knowledge gleaned from the workshop will serve as foundational information for a Biosafety Program Analytics Initiative to be undertaken by the UTHealth BP in conjunction with the University of Texas School of Public Health’s Prevention, Preparedness and Response (P2R) Academy. The P2R Academy is a group dedicated to the advancement of the health and safety professions through the dissemination of scientifically sound education, training and research. As such, the information and conclusions from this workshop will be shared with the practicing biosafety community so that improved understanding of profession’s collective efforts can be instilled.

Workshop facilitators:

Dr. Robert Emery is Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management for The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and Professor of Occupational Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health. He has over 35 years of experience in health & safety and possesses master’s degrees in both health physics and environmental sciences, and a doctorate in occupational health. Dr. Emery holds the unique distinction of possessing national board certification in seven main areas of health & safety;

- health physics [Certified Health Physicist, CHP],

- industrial hygiene [Certified Industrial Hygienist, CIH],
- biological safety [Certified Biological Safety Professional, CBSP],
- occupational safety [Certified Safety Professional, CSP],
- hazardous materials management [Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, CHMM],
- security [Certified Protection Professional, CPP],
- and risk management [Associate in Risk Management, ARM].

Dr. Emery is co-director of the University of Texas School of Public Health's Prevention, Preparedness and Response (P2R) Academy. Additionally, while managing a comprehensive safety program, Bob has authored over 70 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles and book chapters and has fulfilled interview requests from media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, LA Times, NY Times, ABC, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, BBC, and NPR. Dr. Emery is a frequent presenter at the local, state, national and international level.

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Dr. Scott Patlovich is the Director of Environmental, Health & Safety at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He holds a Doctorate of Public Health in Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences (concentration in epidemiology and disease control) from the University of Texas School of Public Health and a Master of Public Health in Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences (concentration in industrial hygiene) from the same school. Scott is a Certified Biological Safety Professional, a Specialist Microbiologist in Biological Safety Microbiology, a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, and is Certified in Public Health. Previously, Scott served as a safety manager at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, the only privately operated BSL-4 laboratory in the country. He also worked as a Senior Safety and Health Manager in the Office of Safety, Health, and Environment at the National University of Singapore.

Dr. Patlovich serves as adjunct faculty within the University of Texas School of Public Health and is an often-requested speaker for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response (P2R) Academy.

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Workshop Agenda:

Introductions

Participant major challenges

Biosafety program drivers

What aspects drives biosafety program size and resourcing? How are they measured? In what units?

Elements identified by ABSA workshop attendees

Biosafety program activities

What functions are performed? What do biosafety programs do? How long to complete? How often?

Biosafety program monthly activity report (handout)

Note data collected not for regulatory purposes, but rather activity and performance

10 year biosafety program prospectus (handout)

Ecological momentary assessment pilot (handout)

How and who this information is presented to, how frequently?

Biosafety program communications

How does the program communicate to its users?

Website, emails, newsletters, information management system?

How is feedback obtained? Client satisfaction survey summary (handout)

Biosafety program outcomes

Injuries, illnesses, LAI's, compliance inspection results, client satisfaction

SHERM annual report (inclusive of biosafety activities)

Biosafety program costs

Budget, waste disposal costs, consultant costs, service costs, costs to operate

SHERM Annual report

Biosafety program value (e.g. percent of total extramural expenditures linked to biosafety)

Biosafety program efficiency

How long for protocol reviews, lab surveys, close out, waste collection, program alignment, frequent questions, requests

10 year biosafety program prospectus (handout)

SHERM annual report

Automation of processes? Tracking of turn around time, errors, etc?

Biosafety program comparisons

What types of comparisons are valid?

EH&S Benchmarking summaries

If perceived as understaffed, what specifically is not getting done?

Biosafety program emergency involvement

How to capture expectations regarding internal and external emergency response?

For example, an outbreak situation, disease in community, surge capacity, etc.

Other aspects/elements?

Next Steps?

Wrap up