2026 Canadian Biosafety Symposium Program

MONDAY, September 21, 2026

8:30am – 4:30 pm		**Pre-symposium Workshop** **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Biorisk Management** Stefan Wagener, Biorisk Management International Ltd (BRMI) *Delta C*
8:30 am – 12:00 pm		**Pre-symposium Workshop** **Operationalizing Safety: Risk Management in Containment Design** Sandy Ellis, Rachel Gamble, Gilles Tremblay, Pond & Co *Delta B*
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		**Lunch**
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm		**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 *Delta B*
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm		**BESWG Meeting (Members only)** *Delta B*
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm		**Exhibitor Networking Reception** ***Delta A, Foyer***

TUESDAY, September 22, 2026 – Delta BC

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

		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.
11:50am – 12:05pm		**Meet the Exhibitors – 1 Minute Pitch**
12:05pm – 1:05pm		**Lunch Break** ***Delta C, Foyer***
1:05pm – 1:25pm		**CABS-ACSB Recognition Awards** Meghan Allen, Tom Walus, CABS-ACSB
1:25pm - 1:45pm		**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
1:45pm – 2:15 pm		**Biocontainment Engineering Science Working Group (BESWG)** Vincent-Olivier Faullem, Amesh Roy, PHAC
2:15pm – 2:35pm		**Laboratory Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Biosafety Professionals** Julianne Barron, Science & Safety Consulting
2:35pm – 2:55pm		**Coffee Break** ***Delta A, Foyer***
2:55pm – 3:15pm		**TBD**
3:15pm – 3:35pm		**TBD**
3:35 pm – 3:45 pm		**Conclusion and Wrap Up**
4:00pm – 5:00pm		**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

7:30am – 8:30am	**Continental Breakfast** ***Delta A, Foyer***	
8:30am – 9:30am		**Keynote Address** **VIDO Shutdown/Career Reflections** Cam Ewart, VIDO
9:30am – 10:00am		**TBD**
10:00 am – 10:20 am		**Coffee Break** ***Delta A, Foyer***
10:20am – 10:45am		**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** ***Delta A, Foyer***
1:00 pm – 1:15pm		**ABSA International Update** ABSA
1:15pm – 1:45pm		**Bringing Biosecurity to the Table: Lessons from a Research Threat and Crisis Exercise** Kristen Carrigan, McMaster University
1:45 pm – 2:10pm		TBD
2:10pm – 2:30pm		**Coffee Break** ***Foyer***
2:30pm – 3:00pm		**TBD**
3:00 pm – 3:25 pm		**What Is So Special About Special Pathogens?** Erica Susky, Charlotte Products
3:25pm -3:50pm		**Navigating Prion Biosafety in Clinical Laboratories** Stephanie Booth, University of Manitoba
3:50 pm – 4:00 pm		**Closing Remarks** Tom Walus CABS-ACSB