



# ABSA INTERNATIONAL

*The Association for Biosafety and Biosecurity*

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Dear Colleagues,

ABSA International and AMEXBIO would like to recognize, with this letter, the individual efforts in promoting and expanding biosafety and biosecurity knowledge and expertise in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. We know that your dedication in this area is not always appreciated, and we would like to take this opportunity to highlight and raise awareness of the important work that you do.

As biotechnology progresses, the work being done by biosafety and biosecurity professionals is becoming more critical to ensure the safety and well-being of our coworkers, families, communities, and the environment in which we live. This is especially important as we face emergent and ongoing disease outbreaks, such as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), natural disasters, and human-made threats.

Biosafety and biosecurity professionals are people characterized by having extensive experience combined with a high level of commitment and sense of responsibility. We are working to let other biosafety professionals know that they are not alone. As civic-based associations, we seek to increase the impact and importance of biosafety professionals worldwide, as well as form the critical mass necessary for the exhaustive work that is globally required.

The combined goals of ABSA International and AMEXBIO consist of providing educational and professional networking opportunities that represent the interests and needs of biosafety and biosecurity practitioners and to provide a forum for the continued and timely exchange of biosafety information. Biosafety associations provide tremendous benefits and resources to biosafety professionals and the communities that they serve.

Please feel invited to be part of our membership. Participation with academic-social bodies, such as our associations, strengthen us as individuals, and provides us with the formal structure needed to recognize our knowledge and expertise in the field.

The future of biosafety and biosecurity is encouraging due to the wonderful work that each of you does. We hope you have a successful, productive, and the truly enjoyable 2020 that you deserve.

Sincerely,

David R. Gillum  
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