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ABSA International, AMEXBIO, and CABS/ACSB Unite Under the Northern Alliance Agreement to Advance Biosafety and Biosecurity Across the Americas

MUNDELEIN, Ill. (November 12, 2025) — ABSA International (American Biological Safety Association), in collaboration with the AMEXBIO (Mexican Biosafety Association) and the CABS/ACSB (Canadian Association for Biological Safety / L'Association Canadienne pour la Sécurité Biologique), announces the formation of the *Northern Alliance Agreement*, signed during the AMEXBIO conference in August 2025, a landmark partnership designed to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity cooperation throughout North America and the broader Americas region.

The Northern Alliance Agreement establishes a collaborative framework among the three national biosafety associations. This partnership focuses on capacity building, standardization of best practices, policy advocacy, and integration of emerging disciplines such as cyberbiosecurity and dual-use research of concern (DURC), providing a framework to expand education, training and preparedness.

“This alliance represents the collective strength of three national associations working toward a common goal — advancing biosafety and biosecurity across the Americas,” said Sherry Bohn, President, ABSA International. “By joining forces, we can share expertise, expand education, and foster a culture of responsible science that benefits research and public health globally.”

Strengthening Regional Collaboration

The agreement emphasizes cooperation to bridge the gap between developed and developing regions, promote mutual support, and facilitate knowledge exchange in laboratory safety, research oversight, and biological risk management. By combining expertise, ABSA International, AMEXBIO, and CABS/ACSB aim to foster a more unified approach to biosafety and biosecurity throughout the Americas.

“Through the Northern Alliance, we strengthen our ability to learn from one another and create a more connected biosafety community,” said Tom Walus, past-President, CABS/ACSB. “This collaboration allows us to share knowledge and resources across borders — ensuring that every laboratory, regardless of size or location, has access to the tools and training needed to operate safely.”



“AMEXBIO is honored to join our colleagues from Canada and the United States in this important alliance,” said Edgar Enrique Sevilla Reyes, President, AMEXBIO. “Working together, we can amplify regional voices, strengthen local capacity, and promote a unified vision for biosafety and biosecurity that reflects the diversity and innovation of the Americas.”

Key Objectives of the Northern Alliance Agreement

- Capacity Building and Training: Deliver joint training programs, workshops, and conferences — both virtual and in person — to build professional competencies and support emerging biosafety networks.
- Standardization of Best Practices: Work toward harmonized biosafety and biosecurity standards adaptable to local needs and resources to ensure consistency and effectiveness.
- Policy Advocacy: Encourage the development of robust national biosafety policies and promote cooperation among governments, academics, and the private sector.
- Integration of Emerging Fields: Incorporate cyberbiosecurity, DURC, and potential pandemic pathogen (PPP) management into regional dialogue and training.

Shared Benefits and Deliverables

The alliance will produce an *Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Report* highlighting regional progress and trends and co-host professional development events. Each October, the partners will also launch a *Biosafety and Biosecurity Awareness Campaign* to coincide with Biosafety Month.

These initiatives will enhance engagement, promote shared accountability, and strengthen resilience against biological risks across the region.

“The Northern Alliance Agreement is more than a memorandum — it’s a shared commitment to safer science,” said the presidents of ABSA International, CABS/ACSB, and AMEXBIO in a joint statement. “Together, we are shaping the future of biosafety and biosecurity across the Americas through cooperation, education, and leadership.”



About ABSA International

Founded in 1984, ABSA International is dedicated to advancing biological safety and biosecurity worldwide. The association represents over 1,700 members in 37 countries, providing expertise, professional development, and guidance to promote safe and responsible practices in biological research and laboratory management. ABSA International is a global thought leader and trusted resource in biosafety and biosecurity.

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