

## 12. Accidents to Actions: Lessons from Laboratory-Acquired Infections

*A distance learning opportunity*

**September 10 and 17, 2026**

12:00 – 2:00 PM (CDT)

### Instructor:

Karen B. Byers, MS, RBP/CBSP (ABSA Emeritus), Retired—Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA

### 🔍 Overview:

This course describes the resources currently available to provide data on 3,962 Laboratory-acquired infections (LAIs) published between 1979 and 2025 that occurred in clinical, teaching, veterinary laboratories, field studies, and industrial vaccine production. Case studies will highlight some of the challenges for exposure prevention in each setting to show how LAI data can support your biosafety program.

We will look at the annual reports of two centralized national systems committed to transparent and consistent reporting on exposures, seroconversions, and laboratory-acquired infections (LAIs) according to their regulatory framework.

- U.S. Federal Select Agent Program (2015-2024)
- Canadian LINC system (2016-2024)


The two programs differ in scope whereas the US system reports only on Select Agents and the Canadian system reports on all Risk Group 2-4 pathogens. However, both programs provide important lessons on the successful administration of a biosafety program, including the importance of follow up after every exposure incident to prevent re-occurrence.


PubMed and Google Scholar yield international data on LAIs - literature surveys and specific studies of LAIs due to bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites in various settings. This includes the challenges of working with blood or urine samples that may contain a Risk Group 3 pathogen in a clinical laboratory, and the "lessons learned" from research studies with *E.coli H7:0157*, LCMV, Vaccinia, and Dengue. Zoonotic pathogens are also an important source of LAIs. For example, there have been 3 recent *Macathine Herpes virus* LAIs ("monkey B" virus in press reports). The group will discuss how to respond to a zoonotic outbreak scenario in an animal facility that results in staff hospitalizations and then look at how a program developed the appropriate interdepartmental response for that actual, unexpected event.





 **Audience Level:** All levels


 **Suggested Background:** None


 **Who Should Attend:** All Biosafety and Biosecurity professionals in government, industry, academic and other institutions/organizations; anyone who regularly communicates about biosafety with public health or non-biosafety professionals

 **Course Logistics:** Course is two 2-hour sessions. Attendees will need to log on 15 minutes prior to the start time. To receive credit and a certificate, attendees must attend the session and complete or access all course modules. The course materials are for **registered participants only**.

 **Course Fees:** **\*ABSA Member: \$300 Non-Members: \$390**  
\* To receive the ABSA member rate, participants must be current ABSA members during the training year. Fees include course handouts, access to the ABSA International training site, and 1.5 hours of expert-led interactive instruction. Group Discount (all registrants from same organization): 10% off for 3-4 participants; 20% off for 5-9 participants; 30% off for 10+ participants. **To apply for the group discount for registration, please call the ABSA Office to register.**

 **Credits:** This course has been approved for **0.5 CM points** toward RBP/CBSP recertification. \*ABSA International is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. This course is approved for **4.5 P.A.C.E.® contact hours**. Course access links are unique and for individual use only. **Sharing is prohibited**. Duplicate logins or unregistered attendees will be removed from the webinar without a refund.

 **Questions:** Contact: Kari DeServi, MEd, Director of Education, ABSA Office, 866.425.1385 (toll free)  
Email: education@absa.org

 **Register:** **By phone:** (866) 425-1385 or **Online:** www.absa.org  
*Confirmed, paid participants will be sent detailed information regarding the course within a few days prior to the course. Substitutions allowed with notice by 8/13/2026. There is a 15% processing fee for cancellations prior to 8/20/2026. No refunds after 8/20/2026.*