

01. Listening to the Narrative: Behavioral Threat Assessment in Laboratory Environments

Identifying concern early in environments where trust and risk coexist.

A distance learning opportunity

January 21 and 28, 2027

11:00 – 12:15 PM (CST)



Instructors:

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Overview

High-consequence biosecurity laboratory environments present unique challenges where human behavior, safety culture, and operational risk intersect. This webinar introduces Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) concepts tailored specifically to BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratory settings, with a focus on early identification of concerning behaviors and proportionate, preventive intervention. Participants will explore how targeted violence and insider risk rarely occur without warning. Drawing from contemporary threat assessment research and real-world laboratory scenarios, the session emphasizes listening to behavioral narratives, recognizing warning behaviors (such as fixation, leakage, and pathway behaviors), and understanding how stressors, grievances, and changing life circumstances can influence risk in high-trust scientific environments. The webinar bridges macro-level BTAM frameworks with micro-level personnel suitability and reliability considerations, highlighting how multidisciplinary teams can responsibly assess, manage, and support individuals before concerns escalate into safety incidents. Importantly, this approach is not punitive, but prevention-oriented; designed to protect people, research missions, and public trust. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of how BTAM principles integrate with biosafety, occupational health, and laboratory leadership practices, and how proactive behavioral intervention serves as a critical layer of defense in biosecurity risk management.

Objectives

- Differentiate behavioral threat assessment and management from other criminal and disciplinary processes
- Identify proximal warning behaviors and pathways to intended violence/harmful conduct
- Strengthen early intervention and reporting practices by emphasizing supportive listening and proportionate management strategies that prioritize individual well-being, laboratory safety, and mission continuity.

 **Audience Level:** All levels

 **Suggested Background:** None

 **Who Should Attend:** Biosafety professionals in government, industry, academic and other institutions/organizations
Anyone who regularly communicates about biosafety with the public or non-biosafety professionals

 **Course Logistics:** Course is two 75-minute 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: \$125 Non-Members: \$215**
* 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.

 **Credits:** This course has been approved for **0.125 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 **1.0 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 12/23/2026. There is a 15% processing fee for cancellations prior to 12/30/2026. No refunds after 12/30/2026.