

# **Breakout Group: (Implementing a Facility- Based Biosafety Program)**

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# Question 1: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **What are the top 3-5 challenges for site-level implementation of a biosafety program (e.g., supply/availability of appropriate PPE, management support, facility infrastructure, budgetary issues, or personnel knowledge/attitude/practice)? What are your recommendations for sustainable and practical solutions to these challenges?**
- Summary of participants response
  - Challenges- breaking behavior barriers/change, lack of policies within the facility, administrative commitment, budget, lack of supplies, workforce disconnection, training to support implementation, upper management does not have adequate expertise.
- Opposing or additional responses: N/A
- Recommendations/Solutions: To overcome challenges- advocacy with decision makers, education, annual safety budgeting, institute biosafety committee/enforcement of standards, development of national policies/guidelines, training in change management, model plan for a successful biosafety program, biosafety officer/champion, ensure staff competency.

# Question 2: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **How can laboratory biosafety efforts be used to complement and encourage general facility safety and infection control to promote a facility-wide culture of safety and sustainability?**
- Summary of participants response
  - IPC/Safety should be combined, laboratorians training other staff, facility-based biosafety officer, 1 committee to coordinate safety, adhere strictly to lab policy, broadly written policy to encompass facilities (not just lab specific), proper mgmt. of hazardous waste,
- Opposing or additional responses: N/A
- Consensus/Summary statement:
- Recommendation(s): See above

# Question 3: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **Is there a basic level of biosafety readiness that all facilities offering testing should be required to attain?**
- Summary of participants response
  - Yes – they have to periodically perform a risk/hazardous assessment, PPE, waste mgmt./disposal, Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), training, SOPs, Biosafety Manual, access control, spill containment, signage, eyewash, incident reporting system, chemical hygiene plan,
- Opposing or additional responses
  - Futile facility design, pest control, power/water outages, reporting system.
- Consensus/Summary statement
  - All of these things can change as a result of performing a risk assessment.
- Recommendation(s): See above

# Question 4: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **What strategies work within fiscally-challenged environments for developing and maintaining a culture of safety at the facility level?**
- Summary of participants response
  - Education of personnel and decision-makers, benchmarking (sharing successful models) working with existing staff, periodic inspections by biosafety officer and lab staff (participatory), awards and incentives, piggy back safety with other programs, develop a short and long term strategy.
- Opposing or additional responses
  - awards/incentives
- Recommendation(s): See above

# Question 5: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **What are some strategies to encourage a culture of safety which encourages the reporting of actual and potential situations/incidents that might place staff members and others at risk and openly assesses those risks (a no-blame environment)**
- Summary of participants response
  - No penalty policy, anonymous reporting (comment box), establish trust from upper mgmt. with lab staff, develop policies to support/encourage change in culture (e.g. no sigma policy), also policy should be developed at the facility level, report the event and not the individual.
- Opposing or additional responses
  - Ideal environment for staff to feel retaliation if problems are identified, whistle-blower protection laws,
- Recommendation(s) : See above

# Question 6: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **Are there “lessons learned” from other programs that could be adapted to a biosafety program implementation at the facility level?**
- Summary of participants response
  - Model (access, follow-up, and reassess to evaluate the effectiveness of the program, twinning and mentorship, universal precautions ( not just assuming that something is non infectious), step-wise approach to implementation so it won't feel overwhelming.
- Opposing or additional responses
  - Behavior change specialist to help improve our process, sustainability as part of the implementation plan, create leadership and champions, manage staffing workload
- Recommendation(s): See above

# Question 7: Discussion Highlights

- Overview of Question: **What are effective ways for evaluating and maintaining biosafety preparedness within health care facilities?**
- Summary of participants response
  - Audits and assessments, QMS, biosafety indicators, developing biosafety standards and maintaining, documentation, education and training, exercises and drills, biosafety committees, routine evaluations and follow ups.
- Opposing or additional responses
  - Routine systematic review and follow-up, developing a database to track progress, tools, establish accreditation goals, accreditation goals need to be adapted to facilities/resources.
- Recommendation(s): See above