

**NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
FOR BIOSECURITY**
February 28, 2008

**American Biological
Safety Association**

Janet S. Peterson, RBP, CBSP
Councilor, ABSA
Assistant Director & Biosafety Officer
University of Maryland
Department of Environmental Safety



American Biological Safety Association (ABSA)

Founded in 1984 to promote biosafety as a scientific discipline and serve the growing needs of biosafety professionals throughout the world.



ABSA Mission

The American Biological Safety Association is dedicated to expanding biological safety awareness to prevent adverse occupational and environmental impact from biohazards.

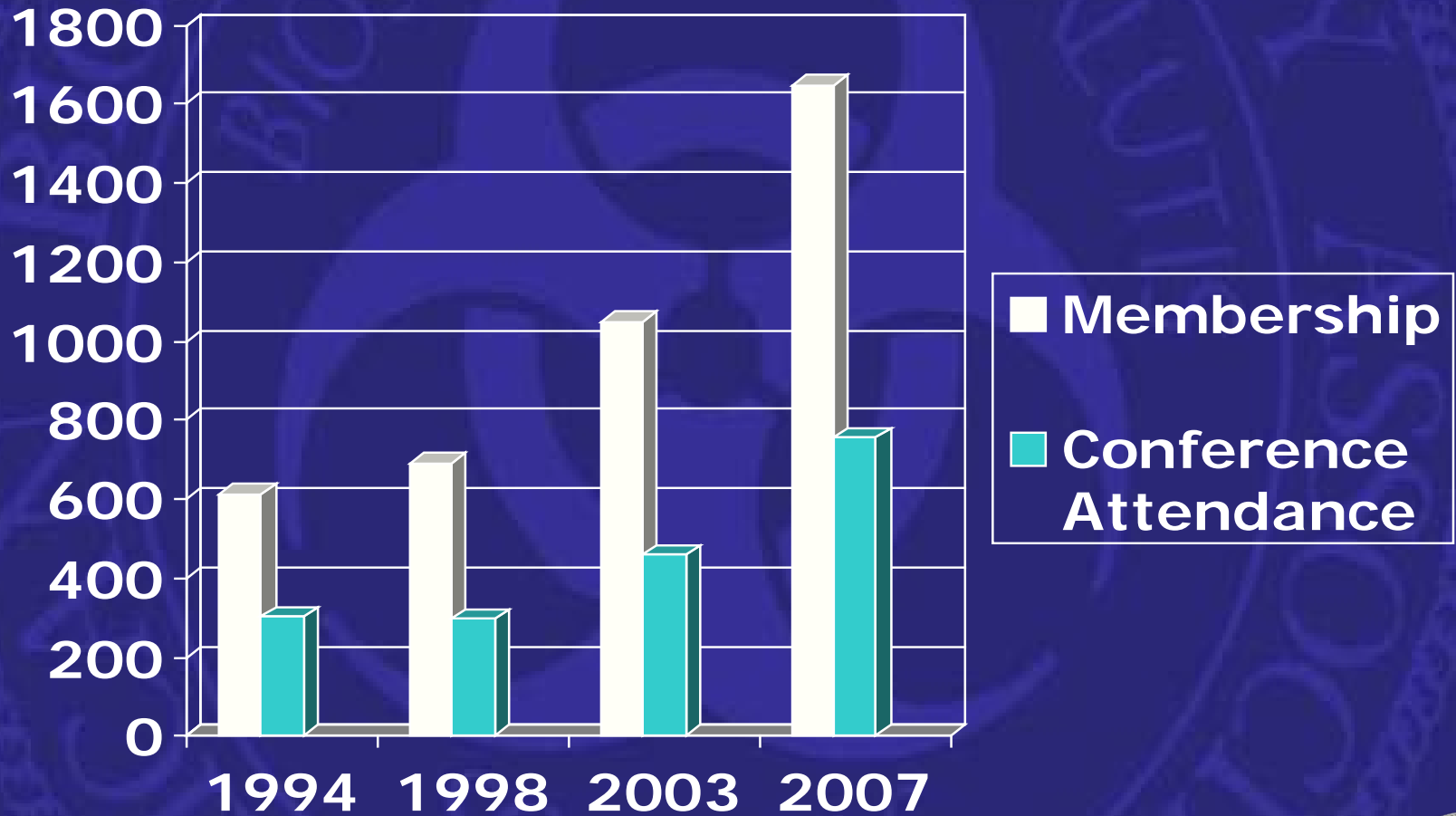


ABSA Statistics

- **1,600 members**
- **800 attendees at 2007 conference**
 - 194 international attendees, 32 countries represented
- **68 exhibits**
- **1600 pre conference slots**
- **Staff of 5 in Mundelein, IL**



ABSA Membership



ABSA Activities

- ***Applied Biosafety*** – Journal of the American Biological Safety Association
- **Conference and Courses**
 - ABSA Conference
 - Pre-Conference Courses
 - *Principles & Practices of Biosafety* 5-day Course
 - Summer Seminar Series
- **ABSA Website**
 - Risk Group Table
 - Members Only Section
- **Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP) and Certified Biological Safety Professional (CBSP)**
- **Biosafety Listserve**



ABSA Membership Dual-Use Awareness

- **Highly variable**
- **Those with IBC responsibility and members of RCEs likely more aware than others**
- **Presentation on the NSABB oversight strategy at the 2007 ABSA conference**
- **We have not formally assessed level of DURC awareness among membership**
 - **Will conduct survey at NSABB request**



ABSA Membership Dual-Use Perceptions

- **Highly variable**
- **Opinions from members of Technical Review Committee represented both extremes in levels of concern.**
- **No formal survey has been conducted**
 - **ABSA will conduct survey at NSABB request**



NSABB Outreach Mechanisms

- **ABSA believes that biosafety professionals and IBCs need to be aware of the dual use review requirements**
- **IBC's have not yet been assigned this task.**
 - Will require a tool similar to the NIH *Guidelines* to facilitate and enable DURC risk assessments at local level



NSABB Outreach Mechanisms

- Principal Investigators constitute the target audience for outreach
- Education program on the basic principles of risk-based biosafety and biosecurity assessments
- *“Points to Consider in the Assessment of Biological Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern”*



American Biological Safety Association

ABSA appreciates the opportunity to have shared our perspective with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions or if ABSA can be of assistance to you in this important effort.

