

Preconference Workshop Proposal Template

APHL 2025

Portland, OR

Monday May 5, 8 am – 11:00 am

Workshop Title

Adapting Biosafety and Biosecurity for the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Laboratory Automation

Audience

Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals, Laboratory Directors, Laboratory Supervisors, Laboratory Operations Managers and Information Security Professionals

Workshop Description

This workshop highlighting the evolution of biosafety and biosecurity issues related to emerging laboratory technologies is structured to be a dynamic and interactive session during which participants engage in thought-provoking exercises designed to challenge their perspectives and stimulate deep reflection. Through interactive lectures, guided activities, group discussions, and creative thought exercises, attendees will explore modern biosafety risks and biosecurity threats, reflect on existing tools, and develop innovative solutions necessary to address current and emerging biosafety and biosecurity challenges. The workshop will address:

1. Biosecurity challenges posed by cybersecurity activities, including practical guidance for conducting a cybersecurity threat and vulnerability assessment in laboratories.
2. Recent biosafety issues related to modern laboratory instrumentation, such as manufacturers' response to high consequence pathogen testing, and performing a pre-purchase biosafety risk assessment.
3. The evolving needs of biosafety and cyberbiosecurity in response to trends in automation and artificial intelligence as laboratories implement modern technologies.

As public health laboratories adopt new technologies, biosafety and biosecurity programs must evolve to meet future needs. This workshop will jump start attendees to consider the changing risks and threats that must be addressed to advance their biosafety and biosecurity programs the future.

Presenters and Topics

Michael A. Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM), State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa

Drew C. Fayram, MS, CBSP(ABSA), RBP(ABSA), Merrick & Company

Kelly Oakeson, PhD, Utah Department of Health

Stormy Chester, BS, Association of Public Health Laboratories (Moderator)

Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Conduct a threat and vulnerability assessment to address laboratory biosecurity challenges posed by cybersecurity activities.
- Advance the use of the risk assessment in design and implementation of new instruments
- Identify biosafety and biosecurity risks related to automation and artificial intelligence technologies in laboratory settings

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Workshop Topics and Exercises	Discussion Leader
Emerging Biosecurity Challenges	Drew Fayram, MS, CBSP(ABSA), RBP(ABSA)
Modern Biosafety Challenges	Michael Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)
Trends in Automation and Artificial Intelligence	TBD
Review of Resources and Participant Feedback	Drew Fayram, MS, CBSP(ABSA), RBP(ABSA) Michael Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM) Kelly Oakeson, PhD, Utah Department of Health

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Workshop Title

Implementing One Health Partnerships and Strategies from within Your Laboratory:
Lessons from Rabies and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Audience

Anyone interested in learning more about One Health and developing interagency partnerships for planning and effective collaborative communications. Primary audience would be for those having a leadership, communication, outreach or operational role within their laboratory. Open to local, state and federal level participants from all APHL member categories and partners (e.g., health, environmental, veterinary diagnostics, food safety, and agricultural institutions).

Workshop Description

Local, state and federal level participants from all APHL member categories and partners (e.g., health, environmental, veterinary diagnostics, food safety, and agricultural institutions) are welcome to join this interactive pre-conference workshop. Participants will experience how effective collaboration between animal health, public health, and environmental sectors strengthens outbreak response, surveillance, and disease prevention efforts. Real-world case studies, like rabies and HPAI, will be used to demonstrate best practices for investigating zoonotic diseases, emphasizing the critical role of laboratories in timely detection, reporting, and coordination. Participants will be able to describe essential concepts related to One Health and will be provided with tools and resources for developing their own communication and interagency collaboration plans and strategies for enhancing their own laboratories efforts toward integrating a One Health perspective. Participants will engage with each other and workshop facilitators throughout the day through interactive problem-solving activities.

Presenters

Rob Nickla, APHL Staff (Facilitator)
Jeremy Corrigan, Director, San Diego County PHL (Moderator)
Kuki Hansen, FDA/CVM/One Health lead (Moderator)
Julie Breher, DVM MPVM, San Diego County PHL
Dan Rice, FDA/HFP/OLOAS
Danielle Buttke, DVM, PhD, One Health Program Lead, National Park Service
Julianne Meisner, University of Washington
Christian Leuteneger, Antech Molecular R&D Chief
Enrico Di Castro Young, APHL Fellow

Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Articulate the One Health concept and its importance in laboratory investigations of zoonotic diseases like rabies and HPAI
- Identify actionable strategies to implement a One Health program within their laboratory
- Develop interagency communication plans and collaborations with a One Health perspective

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One Health as a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach, with Rabies as an example	Julie Breher
Federal One Health tools and resources, and how they were used in the HPAI response	Dan Rice
Mapping your steps to bringing One Health partners to the table	Julie Breher and Participants
Wildlife drivers within One Health systems	Danielle Buttke
Academic perspectives on building One Health collaborations	Julianne Meisner
Working together to strengthen One Health connections	Julie Breher and Participants
Teaching One Health to new scientists: Fellowship experience with HPAI in mammals in Montana	Mr Di Castro Young

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Proposed Title

Communication Essentials: An Experiential Workshop on Messaging to Meet Your Laboratory's Needs

Audience

Laboratory directors, assistant laboratory directors, laboratory preparedness coordinators
This training is for all levels of public health laboratorians. It is for anyone who needs to successfully communicate a message to another person or group.

Description

The ability to effectively communicate a message that leaves a lasting impact is an important skill for laboratorians. They need to be able to share their message and gain buy-in for their vision, whether that is for onboarding a new test, implementing information technology changes, or securing state funding for programmatic or infrastructure updates. It also becomes important when speaking to visitors to the laboratory. This workshop will teach attendees how to craft a core message using Plain Language and navigate successfully delivering it when the information receiver may have their own agenda. Attendees will learn through presentations and interactive small-group exercises.

Presenters

Amanda Cosser, Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy, Manager
Michelle Forman, Manager, Media, APHL
Peter Kyriacopoulos, Chief Policy Officer, APHL
Gynene Sullivan, Manager, Communications, APHL

Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, participant will be able to:

- Advocate for their laboratory by effectively communicating the value of their work
- Develop rapport with external partners
- Confidently develop and share communications

Workshop Topics and Exercises	Discussion Leader
Communicating Technical Work in Plain Language	Gynene Sullivan
“Jargon-a-Tron” Exercise	Michelle Forman
Core Messaging	Amanda Cosser
Core Message Development Exercise: Crafting, Delivery, Share feedback, Redelivery	Peter Kyriacopoulos

Preparation for Workshop:

Attendees will be emailed approximately two weeks prior to the conference so they can begin thinking about the core message they will develop and practice during the session. The email will describe the very interactive format of this workshop and how it may be uncomfortable for some, but it will emphasize the workshop's supportive learning environment.

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Workshop Title

Laboratory Leadership in Action: Elevating Everyday Impact

Audience

Developing (new) and experienced (tenured) laboratory leaders

Workshop Description:

Have you ever faced challenges in your laboratory where strong leadership would have influenced or improved the outcome? Join this preconference workshop to hone those skills and work alongside laboratory leaders with the same priorities!

The goal of this preconference is to equip developing and experienced laboratory leaders within the 1-5 years of their careers so that they are strong everyday leaders within their public health laboratories.

High functioning teams with strong engagement connect with their leaders' visions, execute the laboratory's mission and experience greater buy-in during times of change. Attendees will brainstorm and apply boundary setting for themselves and their teams while cultivating leadership qualities within their team members. Select leadership skills will be practiced in a small group setting to reinforce attendees' skill application at their public health laboratories.

Presenters

Kathleen Street (APHL, Manager, Leadership Programs)
Kenlie Fite (APHL, Lead Specialist, Leadership Programs)
Shelby Shiver (APHL, Lead Specialist, Leadership Programs)
Holly St. John (APHL, Senior Specialist, Leadership Programs)

Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

- Demonstrate strategies for enhancing team cohesion and engagement within a public health laboratory setting
- Apply principles of effective boundary setting to daily public health laboratory tasks, projects and functions
- Formulate a framework for improving every day leadership practices within public health laboratories

Workshop Topics and Exercises	Discussion Leader
Characteristics of Effective Everyday Leaders	Kathleen Street
Individual Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis	Shelby Shiver
Boundary Setting for Everyday Leaders and their Teams	Kenlie Fite

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Apply Boundary Setting Principles to Public Health Laboratory Leader and Team Needs	Holly St. John
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