

# IFBA Biosafety Heroes 2011

## **Dr. Aamer Ikram**

Consultant, Microbiology & Biosafety  
Combined Military Hospital, Quetta Cantt., Pakistan



Dr. Aamer Ikram is a Medical Doctor who earned his Fellowship in Microbiology in 1998 and is the first Pakistani national to qualify as an ABSA Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP). He has dedicated tremendous effort over more than two decades in acquiring skills and knowledge in Biosafety and Biosecurity, including through a range of related courses in the UK and US. As part of a National Task Force on Biosafety, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, he has contributed to the drafting of legislation related to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and has drafted National Guidelines for Codes of Conduct covering Biosafety and Biosecurity for Life Scientists in Pakistan. He has represented Pakistan at BWC meetings in Geneva and worked on BWC's Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

Aamer is one of the founders of the Pakistan Biological Safety Association and has developed Biosafety curricula and organized workshops and meetings on Biosafety & Biosecurity in his country. As a major achievement, he has succeeded in making Biosafety training compulsory at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Pakistan and has pioneered an initiative to introduce dedicated Biosafety Officers at military institutes. He has devoted much of his own time to translating into Urdu an internet-based Dual-Use Biosecurity teaching module through Bradford University.

Looking ahead, Aamer plans to continue to further develop expertise in Microbiology and Biosafety with the intent of developing Biosafety as an integrated specialty and sharing this knowledge through training at the national and international levels. He enjoys spending time with his family by going to movies and cultural and sports events.

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## **Dr. Indrawati Sendow**

Research Scientist BBALITVET, Bogor, Indonesia  
Indonesian Research Center for Veterinary Science



Dr. Indrawati Sendow earned her DVM degree at Bogor Agricultural University and her MSc at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia. She is currently employed at BBALITVET in the Ministry of Agriculture and has been working there as a research scientist since 1982. She was actively involved in establishing (and maintaining) the BSL3 and ABSL3 labs in the Institute in 2006-7 and started initially as its Deputy Biosafety Officer and is currently its Biosafety Officer. She is also a vice president of the Indonesian Biorisk Association.

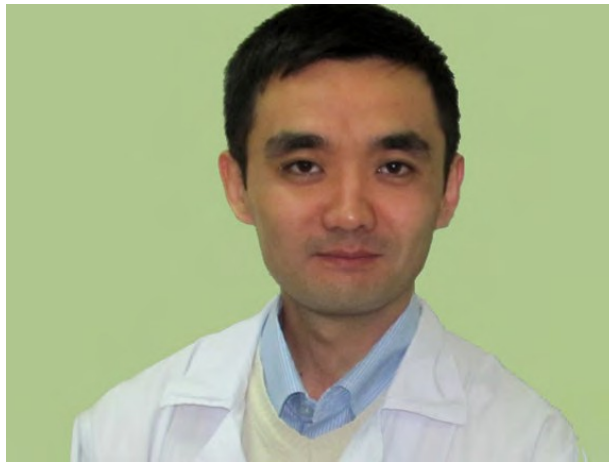
Indrawati is recognised for her pioneering work in Biosafety training at BBALITVET as well as at other private and public institutes in Indonesia. In spite of modest resources, she very successfully leveraged her knowledge of and training in Biosafety/Biosecurity by proactively sharing this expertise with other staff in her field. She was particularly successful in this initiative due to a practical understanding of the day-to-day needs of her co-workers and by allocating adequate resources for the implementation of Biosafety/Biosecurity on an on-going basis.

Her future aspiration is to become a registered biosafety professional and to broaden her experience in this discipline by actively networking with other biosafety professionals in Indonesia, the region as well as at the international level. Indrawati is married and the Sendows have 2 children. Her hobbies include listening to classical music, traveling and sports including swimming, tennis, table tennis and basketball.

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### **Dr. Namazbek Abdykerimov**

Principal Officer, Kyrgyz Research Institute of Veterinary  
named after A. Duysheev



Dr. Namazbek Abdykerimov is a virologist in a Kyrgyz veterinary institute who has been involved in a variety of biosafety-related training activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, in the region of Central Asia, as well as in North America. He is widely knowledgeable about Biosafety gained through a wide range of biosafety training courses given by scientific and biosafety institutions such as ABSA, ICID, USAid, and ISTC, However, his contribution to Biosafety is especially appreciated for his particular focus on the certification, operation and maintenance of Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs).

Namazbek is the Kyrgyz Lead in a regional program to build local capacity to certify BSCs which were traditionally not used in the Soviet Union or in the countries that emerged from it. Currently, many are being provided through local and foreign funding but there is little training in their use and until recently, there was no local capacity for their certification. As a result, many BSCs were never certified and others were certified once by foreign specialists specially flown in for the task. Namaz was part of a four year program intended to change this situation. The program included training in the US and Kazakhstan on certifying BSCs and managing a BSC certification program as well as creating a comprehensive inventory and certifying most or all of the BSCs in Kyrgyzstan. In addition to certifying BSCs, Namaz also informally helps train users in using them properly.

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## **Ms. Jean Gratz**

Tanzania Laboratory Manager  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia



Jean Gratz, is a Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP) is a lab manager making significant contributions to strengthening biosafety. She was originally trained as a clinical microbiologist and transitioned, by choice, into the biosafety field in 2003 at the University of Virginia. After two years of training and experience there transitioned to Duke University in its Global Health Division in order to make an impact not only in biosafety but in the control of infectious disease in developing countries. She is currently based full time in Tanzania with the University of Virginia Infectious Diseases and International Health where her primary responsibility is building laboratory capacity to support enteric diseases and TB research.

Jean applies her knowledge of biosafety on a global scale, influencing the lives of people who live and work in Nepal, Bangladesh, Peru, India, Thailand, Pakistan, Laos, and many other countries. She has provided lectures and hands on training in biosafety. She has witnessed occupationally acquired infections that are unpublicized in the traditional literature, and has made an impact in preventing future such infections. She has visited clinical microbiology laboratories and provided biosafety consultation worldwide, and helped get people in many different places thinking in new ways about biosafety.