



2012 Biosafety Heroes Award Winners

Siripan Wongwanich

Principal Medical Scientist

Director of the Bureau of Pathogen and Animal Toxins Act

Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand.

Mrs. Wongwanich has shown her effectiveness and leadership in implementing biosafety and biosecurity aspects of three national programs in Thailand.



She has introduced ISO standards to medical laboratories in Thailand, including biocontainment and biosafety aspects. A total of 76 medical laboratories were assessed and accredited.

She has extended the provisions of the Thai Pathogens and Animal Toxins Act to cover governmental as well private sector organizations. As a result of this, 60 governmental organizations were registered and licensed to produce, possess, distribute, import, export, or ship pathogens or toxins.

She has developed and implemented a Biorisk Management Champions program, intended to support biorisk management in both public and private sector microbiology laboratories in Thailand. She has combined various standards and guidelines to create guidelines for a biorisk management system for the Laboratory Champions to use. 36 BSL 2 and 3 labs have been engaged in this program, which has included courses and workshops on such topics as what it





means to be a biosafety professional. One important aspect of the program is that for a laboratory to be a Champion it must share knowledge, skills, and experiences in biorisk management with at least 2 other laboratories.

Through these activities Mrs. Wongwanich has successfully contributed to a culture of responsibility as regards biosafety and biosecurity at all levels, and in all types, of biolaboratories, and encouraged collaboration between human and animal health communities to contribute to the global fight against infectious diseases.

Dr. Edith Sangalang Tria

Departmental Head Dt. Lazaro Hospital

Ministry of Health, Manila, Philippines

President Philippine Biosafety and Biosecurity Association

Without Dr. Tria and her interest, effort and perseverance there would be no Philippine Biosafety and Biosecurity Association (PhBBSA). She spearheaded this effort many years ago, conscripted loyal followers, convinced unwilling participants and outlasted the dissenters. The PhBBSA is alive and well today because of her. She is currently the president and continues to ensure its success through fund raising, mentoring and organizing.



Without Dr. Tria there would be no chapter biosafety associations in the Philippines. She has organized and found support to create 6 regional chapter biosafety associations under the PhBBSA. She realized that not everyone can go to Manila to learn biosafety and participate in the national meetings. Therefore she took biosafety to where it was needed most – in the field where the disease agents are being worked with.

Without Dr. Tria and her tireless efforts there would be no draft Philippine biosafety standards. She pioneered the effort for the Philippines to establish its own biosafety standards that could form the basis for regulations and guidelines. She brought together representatives from



several key government Ministries and over a period of several years developed a draft standard that is now being circulated among those Ministries for ratification.

In doing all these things it was not always easy to get buy in from upper level management. She went ahead with what she was doing all the same, winning hearts and minds one person at a time.

Through these activities Dr. Tria has been instrumental in creating a culture of biosafety and biosecurity in the Philippines.



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Dinara Turegeldieva

Chief of Experimental Model Laboratory

Kazakh Scientific Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases, Almaty, Kazakhstan



Dr. Turegeldieva initially worked in the training center of her institute, and in that capacity was either a participant or leader of a large number of training workshops on topics such as transportation of dangerous goods, biorisk management, biosafety aspects of lab work with plague, cholera, anthrax, brucella, and others. She now has a different position at KSCQZD but is still one of 2 main lecturers at the training center on biosafety issues.

She is a member of her institute's biosafety committee.

She is a member of a special government working group on the harmonization of Kazakh national legislation on biosafety and biosecurity and adaptation of international standards.

Perhaps most importantly she played a key role in the establishment of the Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus, BACAC, and in the planning and implementation of every annual meeting to date. Were it not for her and the tremendous time, effort, and focus she devoted to this BACAC as we know it may not exist.