

### **José Alberto Díaz-Quiñonez**

*Assistant Director General  
Mexican National Reference Laboratory  
Past-President, Mexican Biosafety Association*



Dr. Díaz-Quiñonez is founder and past president of the Mexican Biosafety Association (AMexBio). He is currently a member of the AMexBio strategic planning commission and continues to ensure its success through fund raising, mentoring and organizing. He has been Coordinator of the Biosafety Committee for Research at the Mexican Social Security Institute, the largest institution involved in health care and social welfare in Latin America. Dr. Díaz-Quiñonez has been Coordinator of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Interministerial Commission on Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms, which among other functions coordinates national GMO biosafety policies. Since 2012 he has been Co-Chair of the Global Health Security Initiative (G7 + Mexico) - Laboratory Network Working Group, an international partnership to strengthen global health preparedness and response to biological, chemical, and radio-nuclear terrorism threats. As professor in the National University of Mexico he developed and implemented a Laboratory Biological Risk Assessment Diploma for graduate students, which allowed many students from Mexico and across Latin American to be introduced to the concepts of biosafety and biosecurity. As Director General of the Mexican National Reference Laboratory (InDRE), he has driven changes in national legislation to make laboratory biorisk management mandatory nationwide, and has led the implementation of CWA15793 at both InDRE and in the Mexican Public Health Laboratory Network. Through these and many other activities Dr. Díaz-Quiñonez has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for establishing and implementing a biorisk management culture in Mexico.



### **Atef Elgendy**

*Head, Bacteriology Section  
United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU3)*

*Vice-President, African Biological Safety Association*



Dr. Elgendy is Vice-President of the African Biological Safety Association (AfBSA) and Head of the Bacteriology Section of the United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 in Cairo (NAMRU-3). He is a council member of the Arab Biological Safety Association. He has been involved in the organization of many biosafety and biosecurity, bacteriology, disease surveillance and infection control symposia and workshops, frequently also serving as an instructor. He continues to work to improve communication among colleagues in Africa and the Middle East, and to improve their knowledge of biosafety and biosecurity. He serves as a champion, understanding the importance of biosafety and biosecurity and spreading that understanding to others in his region.