



International Federation of
Biosafety Associations

IFBA Global Mentorship Program

The International Federation of Biosafety Associations' Global Mentorship Program serves to provide developing biosafety professionals across the world with culturally and regionally relevant individual mentorship from experienced champions in their geographic region. Mentors and their mentees discuss foundations of biosafety and biosecurity as it pertains to global and regional standards of practice, as well as emerging trends and threats in health security across diverse professional disciplines in the human, animal, and security sectors.



All IFBA Global Mentors hold at least two IFBA Professional Certifications, as well as relevant professional experience, to guide their mentees and navigate challenges unique to their work environments. Mentorship pairs work closely with one another over the course of one calendar year, sharing knowledge, skills, and experiences related to their daily work and future goals as biosafety and/or biosecurity professionals. Monthly discussion points are circulated by the IFBA Secretariat regarding emerging topics in global biosafety and biosecurity, including risk-based solutions, building sustainable laboratories, and equity in the global biosafety community.



The IFBA's south-to-south mentoring program also serves as a vehicle for forming crucial links between frontline biosafety professionals, laboratory workers and government decision makers. Mentees are learning how to best translate principles of global health security into strategies and innovations that will be successful over the long term. Similarly, policy makers are tapping into the experiences of these individuals and their unique understanding of what happens on, or close to, the front line. As a result, the mentorship program is an effective tool to bridge the gap between health security policy development and sustainable implementation.

In addition, the IFBA Global Mentorship Program is sensitive to the intersectional nature of a developing biosafety professional, where factors such as gender, language, culture, and geographic location are equally addressed. Promoting and retaining women leaders in global biosafety and biosecurity, and highlighting their unique contributions and perspectives, is a key aspect of the program

