



IFBA Biosafety Heroes

The IFBA has created a Biosafety Heroes program to identify and celebrate extraordinary individuals who make significant contributions to help others in the field of biosafety and biosecurity. IFBA Biosafety Heroes are exceptional and inspiring individuals honored by the global biosafety community as having made a difference for the better. Biosafety Heroes serve as role models, showing others that each individual is important and can contribute to the global fight against infectious diseases.

Who are our Heroes?

Nominees are selected on their uniqueness, the specific accomplishments they achieved that are truly remarkable, and the impact their work has had on others.

Preference is given to individuals who:

- operate in an environment where biosafety funds are limited, and/or where the importance of biosafety is not fully appreciated.
- have not yet been recognized with other biosafety awards.

The following are the outstanding individuals who, through recognition by an international panel of their peers, have been awarded the distinction of being named IFBA's 2019 Biosafety Heroes.



Abeer Elsayed Abdelaziz Mohamed

*Biorisk Officer, Deputy Manager of Food Microbiology Department
Central Public Health Laboratories, Ministry Of Health
Cairo, Egypt*



Dr. Abdelaziz serves as biorisk officer of the Central Public Health Laboratories, Ministry of Health, Egypt. She established a biorisk management program there, and created, translated, and implemented biosafety SOPs. Freely sharing her time, knowledge and experience with staff from both her laboratory and others she strengthened biosafety skills, and encouraged and helped several staff members to achieve IFBA certification. She also helped attract international funding to allow one hundred people from the region to receive training in biosafety, serves as a biorisk management advisor for the Middle East and North Africa Biorisk Management Network, and has been trained by the WHO and others to conduct biorisk management training. She is currently serving as one of the first Mentors in the new IFBA Global Mentorship Program, and so in this way also assisting colleagues from the region in developing their biosafety skills. In these and other roles she has used her tireless enthusiasm, experience, and knowledge to strengthen biosafety and biosecurity in Egypt and the region.



Olga Burduniuc

*Head of Microbiological Laboratory
Department of Laboratory Diagnosis in Public Health
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova*



In 2016, as a part of Ms. Burduniuc's postgraduate studies, she assessed the biological risk management and biosafety practices in the laboratories of the Moldovan Public health service, generating data and ideas she has used since then to strengthen both. In 2017 she helped found the Moldovan Biosafety and Biosecurity Association (MDBBA), of which she currently serves as President. She developed biosafety and biosecurity training curricula for doctors, residents and students at the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu", and organized various seminars and meetings to disseminate biosafety information to clinicians, veterinarians, and laboratory workers. She also participated in the WHO 2018 Joint External Evaluation of the basic capacities of Moldova under the International Health Regulations. In 2019 she founded the scientific journal One Health and Risk Management within the MDBBA, to increase the visibility of scientific research in biosafety and biosecurity, and also to encourage collaboration between MDBBA and similar national and international organizations. Working with limited human and financial resources, she has striven tirelessly to improve the biosafety situation in her own country and to bring its biosafety professionals together, both with each other and with those throughout the region.