



Women Champions in Global Biosafety & Biosecurity

A Living Mosaic of Frontline Workers and Leaders: An Event Series

Introduction

The IFBA Equity-Focused Coordinating Committee (IFBA ECC) presents "**Women Champions in Global Biosafety and Biosecurity: A Living Mosaic of Frontline Workers and Leaders**", a web series honoring women professionals' contributions in frontline and leadership roles in biosafety and biosecurity. This dialogue-centered project will amplify the diverse voices of women biosafety and biosecurity professionals from an array of professional settings in front line and leadership roles to create a living mosaic of expertise, lived experiences, and anticipation for an inclusive and sustainable future for global biosafety and biosecurity.

Our Motivation

The International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) comprises a global network of biosafety and biosecurity professionals dedicated to safe, secure, and responsible work with biological materials. Many of these professionals have led their institutions and regions through endemic disease outbreaks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other health threats in frontline and leadership roles. Highlighting and understanding the diversity of personal and professional roles that women play in safeguarding sustainable local, regional, and global health security. Women professionals have unique contributions to biosafety and biosecurity workforce. This event series will raise awareness and identify common goals in mainstreaming women's perspectives and interests at all levels of biosafety and biosecurity policy and practice.



Pioneering Perspectives:
Empowering Women at
the Forefront of Biosafety
and Biosecurity

Structure and Format

This invitation-only event series will consist of 3 interactive, online community forums. Each forum is themed, in alignment with emerging and ongoing interests in the global biosafety and biosecurity community:

Forum 1: Women as part of Global, Multisectoral Health Security Workforces (October 17th, 2023) - explore implications of shifting global health security workforce dynamics on front line women workers and leaders, and gain insights from their experiences and perspectives to inform the future of the collective workforce.

Forum 2: Women's Organizations in Global Biosafety and Biosecurity (October 24th, 2023) - connect gender-focused professional groups from various sectors to address issues related to global health security and gender mainstreaming in the life and health sciences.

Forum 3: Women, Peace, and Security: Top-Down and Bottom-Up Perspectives in Global Biosecurity (November 14th, 2023) - discuss how advances in science and technology and their associated risks are being addressed - or not addressed - with regards to potential gender- and sex-specific impacts.

Outcomes

Outcomes of the event series include greater awareness of the many roles that women professionals in biosafety and biosecurity play in local, regional, and global professional networks. Gender is an increasingly recognized variable in biosafety and biosecurity policy- and decision-making. Interactive segments of the events will collect valuable insights with regards to regional professional network building for women, including the *Women's Network for the Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological Threats in Africa*. Further tangible connections between concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and the technical practices of biosafety and biosecurity will also be developed.