



Celebrating the Launch of the Belgian Biosafety Professionals.

March 28, 2006
Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and Arts
Brussels

Welcome from the Chairman

Dear Participant,

Welcome and thank you for joining us today to celebrate the launch of the “Belgian Biosafety Professionals (BBP)”

BBP, a section of the European BioSafety Association (EBSA), is a professional association representing the interests of practitioners of biological safety and providing a forum for the continued and timely exchange of biosafety information.

Handling naturally occurring or recombinant biological material, including human, animal and plant pathogens, experimental as well as genetically modified organisms, is an integral and essential part of research, development and manufacturing programs. Laboratories handling biohazardous agents are special, often unique, environments that may pose infectious disease risk to persons in or near them, to the population and to the environment. Notwithstanding the range of people daily involved in biosafety, accurate information is hard to find, individual experience remains unexploited and regulatory developments occur without structured input of the users.

BBP brings together biosafety professionals to share experience, to be informed on developments and to anticipate upcoming issues. This launch meeting is the kick-off of a series of workshops providing a focused and structured dialogue on biosafety issues. Our members can join several Task Forces, covering subjects like regulatory aspects, practices, training and risk assessment to, elaborate positions, advocate views and improve the daily operations of biosafety professionals. Integrated in EBSA, contacts with colleagues and experts in the European Union are available.

Today’s celebration marks the official start of our activities. I sincerely appreciate the contributions of our Sponsors and of the volunteers, who made the creation of BBP and this BBP Launch Event possible. I trust that their commitment can motivate you to consider joining as a member and shaping the future of BBP and biosafety in Belgium.

I wish you a successful meeting and excellent contacts with fellow Biosafety Professionals.

Toon DE KESEL
Chairman Belgian Biosafety Professionals

Welcome / Opening

Dr. Patrick Rüdelsheim, Secretary BBP Steering Team

The platform for Belgian Biosafety Professionals

Mr. Toon De Kesel
Chairman BBP



The Epidemiology of Laboratory Infections

Dr. Huub Schellekens
Director, Universiteit Utrecht



SARS and Avian flu: Biosafety experience

Dr. Marc Van Ranst
KULeuven



Biosafety in Europe – Working Together

Dr. Gary Burns
President EBSA



BBP thanks the following parties for supporting the launch celebration:

