



# BIONET.

BIOLOGICAL SAFETY INFORMATION NETWORK

BioNet  
December 2021

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## Happy Holidays



BioNet's Pre-Pandemic social hour before COVID-19

December 20, 2021

Dear BioNet members,

Thank you for your continued support and membership!

This year was unlike any other! If 2020 was the year of the start of the pandemic, then 2021 was a year of transition. We're not quite out of it, but we're not quite in it anymore. Some of us are back in the office, some of us are still teleworking. As this year comes to a close, we'd like to highlight some of our accomplishments:



BioNET hosted two virtual mini symposiums this year. Our April mini-symposium had approximately 70 attendees and we covered California's Vaccine Prioritization Journey, Covid-19 Aerosol Inhalation - Interventions for Workplace and Safety, and Implementation of Large-Scale Wastewater Surveillance in Tracking Covid-19 Infection Dynamics. For the first time, we offered our vendors an opportunity to connect with our membership by presenting a few slides during our symposium.

In September, we hosted our second mini-symposium with approximately 63 attendees and covered a broad range of topics such as Lean Basics for the Laboratory (a personal favorite!), Training Effectiveness in Remote/Virtual Settings, Respiratory Protection Program, and Safety Culture.

This year, we also established a listserv for our members to connect directly with each other. Members can send an email to [bionet-members@googlegroups.com](mailto:bionet-members@googlegroups.com) to post a discussion topic or you can send an email to our secretary, Vanessa Cook ([cookv@usc.edu](mailto:cookv@usc.edu)) for her to post anonymously.

We are so incredibly grateful to you, our members, for your continued support and engagement. Throughout this year of transition, we have had many members express their gratitude for the information this group has provided and the shared knowledge and camaraderie of our network.

And as always, we are open to your feedback and want to hear your ideas for our next meeting!

Cheers,

Kate O'Brien and the BioNET Board of Directors



# Election Results

Two positions were up for election this year and the results are in! Thank you to our candidates and our members that voted.

Congratulations to Tasha Sturm, our new Director At Large, and Jennifer Ramil, who will begin her second term as BioNet Treasurer.

Tasha is a Science Laboratory Coordinator, specializing in Microbiology and Biosafety in the Biology Department at Cabrillo College. Photography is her hobby and you may remember her bacterial handprint images posted to Microbeworld and featured on The Today Show, ABC, Disney, Business Weekly, the Smithsonian, and many more! Tasha is a self-proclaimed stickler for lab safety and serves on the Cabrillo College Safety Committee, the Chemical Hygiene Council, as a community representative to the IBC at UCSC, and on the County Sheriff Advisory Council. The BioNet Board of Directors is thrilled to welcome Tasha to the board!

Jennifer Ramil is the Research Safety Services Manager and Biosafety Officer at San Diego State University. Her goal is to break down barriers to communication and implement practical and realistic safety solutions. This will be Jennifer's second term as BioNet Treasurer.

The BioNet Board of Directors would like to give a special thank you to Vilmarie Rodriguez, who served on the BioNet Board as Director At Large for three years. Vilmarie always brought open communication and collaboration to our Board of Directors meetings and we thank her for her service.



# 2022 Membership Drive

We will start our new membership drive in January. Our annual membership prices are:

- Individual Membership - \$40
- Emeritus/Retired Membership - \$10
- Student Membership - \$10

Each member will be sent an invoice via email to easily renew their membership online or via check.

If you want to renew early, feel free to do so using our [Converge Secure Payment site](#). Contact Jennifer Ramil ([jramil@sdsu.edu](mailto:jramil@sdsu.edu)) with any questions or concerns.

# 2022 BioNET Board of Directors

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## **Treasurer:**

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Research Safety Services Manager, Environmental Health and Safety  
San Diego State University

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Sheryl Major  
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University of California, San Diego

Shannon Mulhern  
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Tasha Sturm  
Science Laboratory Coordinator, Biology  
Cabrillo College

## **Website Committee Chair and Administrator:**

Sylvie Blondelle, PhD, RBP  
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Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute

**Email us at: [bionet-bod@googlegroups.com](mailto:bionet-bod@googlegroups.com)**