

BRMC 305- Selection, Installation and Safe Use of Biosafety Cabinet, Autoclave and Other Common Laboratory and Safety Equipment

Trainer Profile

Dr Sabai PHYU



After Sabai graduated from one of the Myanmar Medical schools (M.B.,B.S.) in 1987, she was involved in Hepatitis B vaccine clinical trial research work for >2 years. She then worked as a medical doctor in health care centres for refugees in Thailand for 4 years. Her biosafety/ biosecurity and biomedical laboratory experience started when she joined the University of Bergen, Norway for her PhD and post-doctoral training between 1994-2003. In 2004, Sabai joined the Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD), Singapore as a Research Investigator. She was involved in designing and outfitting the animal BSL-3 (ABSL-3) laboratory and headed the NITD BSL-3/ABSL-3 laboratory operations and management (2006-2012). She also coordinated the outfitting of NITD outstation laboratories in Indonesia.

She joined the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUSMed) in 2012 and served as a Deputy Director for the BSL-3 Core Facility until Feb 2019. She worked together with a team of laboratory designers, architects, high containment engineers and consultants for outfitting the BSL-3 Core Facility. She headed the BSL-3 operations team and oversaw both the safety and security of the Facility. In addition, she served on the Singapore MOH Working Committee for the training and development of biosafety professionals and as a member of the Expert Advisory Panel of the MOH (Biosafety Branch) for preparing the National Biosafety Standards for Maximum Containment Facilities. She was a trainer for the South East Asia region Design, Construction, Operation and Management of Microbiological Laboratories courses organised by the EU CBRN CoE in 2017-2018.

She has been providing BSL-3/ ABSL-3 laboratory certification services in Singapore since her company, LBCT Pte. Ltd. was recognised as a BSL-3 facility certifier by the Singapore MOH in 2021. She has been a trainer for the Professional Biorisk Management Courses offered by NUSMed and providing ad-hoc biosafety/biosecurity consultancy services to different institutions/ companies within Singapore and abroad. One of the main clients is the EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat. During her free time, she has been sharing her professional knowledge and skills among biosafety professionals regularly through the Biorisk Association of Singapore. In addition, she has contributed to preparing the Singapore Standard specifications for BSL-3 Facility (organised by Enterprise Singapore) and the development of the National Biosafety Guidelines for large-scale production of biological agents (organised by the Biosafety Branch, MOH).

BRMC 305- Selection, Installation and Safe Use of Biosafety Cabinet, Autoclave and Other Common Laboratory and Safety Equipment

Trainer Profile

Ms Sindhu RAVINDRAN



Ms Sindhu Ravindran is a biosafety professional with over 22 years of work experience of which 17 years are in Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) laboratory. Currently she assumes the roles Senior Manager, Head of Operations and Biosafety Coordinator of National University of Singapore (NUS) BSL3 Core Facility.

Ms Ravindran holds a Master's degree in Medical Microbiology. Beginning her career in 2001, she started as a Research Scientist at Infectious Diseases Research Lab at Tan Tock Seng Hospital. She advanced to Novartis Institute for Tropical Diseases (NITD) in 2004 as a Research Scientist in the Institute's BSL3 lab. There she embarked on her high containment facility journey working in TB research. She was the lead for the animal BSL3 laboratory and worked on numerous *in vivo* drug efficacy projects. Training lab staff to work safely in BSL3, developing protocols and procedures and conducting lab safety audits and inspections were other areas she was involved in her NITD chapter.

In 2012, Ms Ravindran progressed to National University of Singapore (NUS) for the startup of University's BSL3 facility. She played a key role in the design, planning, building and MOH certification of the high containment laboratory in NUS. She was also instrumental in developing the intense and comprehensive Training Program, Biosafety Manual, Emergency Response Plans and SOPs for NUS BSL3 facility. Ms Ravindran is a Registered Biosafety Professional (RBP) by American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) and certified by International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA). She was EXCO member of the Biorisk Association of Singapore (BAS) for four consecutive years – two of which as the Treasurer. She also has obtained full qualification in Advanced Certificate in Training and Assessment (ACTA).