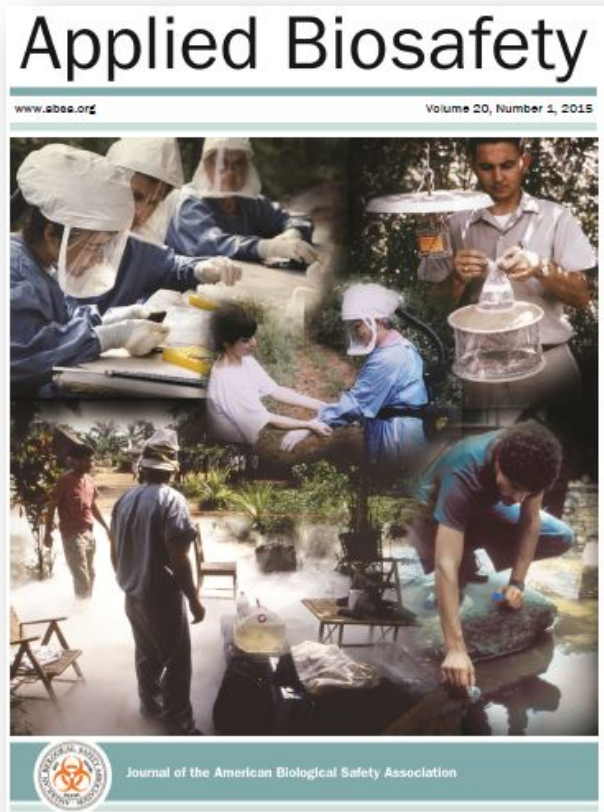


Former IH trainee publishes dissertation research in *Applied Biosafety*

Scott Patlovich, DrPH, a recent graduate of the UTHealth School of Public Health (UTSPH) and former SWCOEH trainee in industrial hygiene, had his doctoral dissertation research project recently published in the April edition of the American Biological Safety Association journal *Applied Biosafety*. The article,



entitled “Assessing the Biological Safety Profession’s Evaluation and Control of Risks Associated with the Field Collection of Potentially Infectious Biological Specimens” was featured on the journal’s cover through the display of photographs depicting various types of field work being conducted. This study assessed the prevalence of and extent to which biological safety programs consider and evaluate the risks associated with field collection activities. To quote the ABSA journal editors: “Field work is a critical component of public and animal health disease surveillance programs and may include collecting environmental, flora, fauna, vector, and other types of samples. The personal protective equipment worn during field work is dependent on a number of factors taking into account environmental conditions and stressors, and hazards posed by infectious agents, vectors, or animals.” In addition to this publication, results of the study were shared during a recent platform

presentation at the American Biological Safety Association’s annual biosafety conference held in San Diego, California in October, 2014. Co-authors on the paper include UTSPH faculty members Dr. Robert Emery who served as dissertation chair, Dr. Lawrence Whitehead, and Dr. Eric Brown, along with UTHealth staff member Dr. Rene Flores. Dr. Patlovich is currently the director of the UTHealth Office of Environmental Health and Safety.