

Working Group on International Collaboration

**Progress Report
November 21, 2005**

Dr. Dave Franz, Chair



Charge

To recommend strategies for fostering international collaboration on the oversight of dual use life sciences research

Challenges

Key issues the Working Group will need to address as it proceeds with its work include the lack of international consensus on:

- level of risk posed by dual use life sciences research and awareness of the risk;**
- definitions/terminology for the oversight of biosecurity concerns;**
- legislative and regulatory frameworks for controlling dangerous pathogens and toxins**

Membership

Voting Members

D. Franz (Chair)
S. Levy (Vice-Chair)
M. Cohen
L. Enquist
B. Erlick
S. Lemon
H. Rubin
A. Vidaver

Federal Agency Reps.

L. Chapman (OSTP)
D. Klein (DOD)
T. Lomax (NASA)
P. Jutro (EPA)
J. Nicholson (CDC)
N. Comella (DOS)
S. Nightingale (DHHS)

Outcomes from First Meeting

Meeting held on October 31, 2005 resulted in the following key items:

- **Proposed workplan objectives;**
- **Draft operating principles/scope of work;**
- **Preliminary inventory of global life sciences research expertise and capacity and oversight frameworks;**
- **Draft deliverables; and**
- **Identification of liaisons to keep Working Group apprised of needs of other NSABB working groups.**

Workplan Objectives & Related Questions

Determine the current level of global expertise and capacity to conduct potential dual use life sciences research.

- Which countries have this ability to conduct significant life sciences research?**

Develop a joint strategy with other NSABB working groups to support/advance their goals internationally.

- What is the international dimension of the other working groups' objectives?**

Workplan Objectives & Related Questions (contd.)

Help raise intl. awareness about potential dual use life sciences research and seek from the intl. scientific community input on NSABB's efforts.

- Who are the stakeholders (e.g., intl. scientific societies, non-govt. entities with NSABB-related interests)?**
- How do other countries perceive the “biosecurity” threat; how do they control pathogens?**
- What mechanisms should be used to engage the scientific community in cooperative efforts?**

Operating Principles

The Working Group will be guided in its work by the following principles:

- **The scientific enterprise is global in nature.**
- **Scientific expertise is not uniformly distributed worldwide.**
- **Effective oversight of potential dual use life sciences research requires international coordination.**

Operating Principles (contd.)

- **Early and ongoing input and perspectives of other countries will be key in successfully carrying out the Working Group's charge.**
- **We must find balance between advocating methods to protect against the misuse of bioscience and advancing research to address public health priorities.**
- **The process used to solicit cooperation from the international community will be as important as the product of our efforts.**

Proposed Deliverables

- **Inventory of stakeholders**
- **Inventory of countries conducting significant life sciences research and their regulatory controls**
- **Workshops/conferences to solicit stakeholders' input to NSABB's work products**
- **Strategy for supporting intl. dimension of NSABB working groups**
- **Recommendations to Board for fostering international collaboration for the oversight of dual use research**

Working Group Liaisons

The following liaisons will help facilitate interaction and coordination between the Working Group on Intl. Collaboration and other NSABB working groups:

Dual Use Criteria Workgroup – A. Vidaver

Communications Workgroup – L. Enquist

Codes of Conduct Workgroup – M. Cohen

Questions to Board

- **Are there other objectives that the Working Group should address?**
- **Are there any specific stakeholders that the Board would like the Working Group to include in its outreach and educational efforts?**