

The logo features a blue background with a grid pattern. On the left, there is a stylized image of a microscope lens or a similar scientific instrument. The text "NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD FOR BIOSECURITY" is written in white, serif, all-caps font across the top right.

NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISORY
BOARD FOR BIOSECURITY

Working Group on International Collaboration

Progress Report
July 13, 2006

Dave Franz, DVM, Ph.D., Chair



Working Group Charge

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

Membership

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J. Croddy (State)
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P. Jutro, Ph.D. (EPA)
T. Lomax, Ph.D. (NASA)
J. Nicholson, Ph.D. (CDC)
S. Nightingale, M.D. (HHS)
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Recent Activities

Initial queries were made to foreign researchers and governments via:

- **Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA);**
- **Diplomatic cable from the USG; and**
- **Miscellaneous discussions with colleagues in U.S. scientific societies with international interests, as well as international scientific and security organizations**

Diplomatic Cable: Scope

- **Initial inquiry to 37 countries;**
- **Conducted via U.S. diplomatic missions;**
- **Exchange of basic/preliminary information between U.S. Government (USG) and prospective partner countries**

Diplomatic Cable: Purpose

To develop collaborative, international partnerships to facilitate dialogue on dual use concerns, USG contacted countries on behalf of NSABB to:

- **Share U.S. concerns regarding dual use research and USG initiatives to address these;**
- **Identify government and non-government Points of Contact (POC);**
- **Ascertain countries' views on dual use research; and**
- **Determine how best to achieve international engagement and collaboration.**

Diplomatic Cable: Responses

Interim Analysis: In general, preliminary information received to date is fairly positive.

- **Most responders have indicated some level of awareness of the “dual use” issue;**
- **Most have indicated an interest in collaborating with USG on NSABB efforts;**
- **Several noted that they have “dual use” initiatives of some kind (a few countries have initiatives similar to NSABB); and**
- **Several identified “dual use” initiatives as security of laboratories or biosafety practices**

Diplomatic Cable: Responses (contd.)

POCs identified by governments generally represent a broad range of government and non-government entities.

Government POCs include:

- **Research institutions, including universities;**
- **Miscellaneous ministries/agencies (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Education, Foreign Affairs, etc.);**
- **“Science & Technology” ministries; and**
- **Agencies working on biological weapons-related issues, including the Biological Weapons Convention**

Diplomatic Cable: Responses (contd.)

Non-Government POCs include:

- **National Academies of Science**
- **Universities/research institutions**

Other Contacts for Collaboration

- **Researchers/scientists in other countries;**
- **International scientific organizations; and**
- **International committees of U.S. scientific societies**

Next Steps

International Meeting:

- In collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO);
- 2 days;
- Approximately 40-50 people (including POCs identified by countries);

Rationale:

To build/enhance awareness of the dual use issue and solicit input on principles and concepts for an effective national oversight strategy for potential dual use life sciences research.