Encouraging Biosecurity Awareness and Promoting Responsible Conduct in an ACADEMIC Laboratory

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How can lab leaders convey the importance of and their commitment to biosecurity and personnel reliability?

- Be knowledgeable of guidelines and SOPs.
- Take active role in University Environmental Health and Safety activities.
- Participate in deliberations at local, regional and federal levels.
- Convey information, and solicit ideas from laboratory personnel.

How can lab leaders build and foster strong working relationships with lab personnel?

- Train newcomers personally.

What are strategies for making consideration of biosecurity, dual use research, and responsible conduct of research a routine part of daily life in the lab?

Discuss relevant current events.

Include discussions of biosecurity and responsible conduct when planning research proposals, experiments, and manuscripts.

Allow the group to plan for CDC inspections.

Challenges

- The rules/guidelines/recommendations can be moving targets.
- These rules are not always be based on sound science.
- Stuff happens.
- There are incompatibilities with universities:
  - Designed as traditionally open environments
  - Internationally diverse populations
  - Population eschews being told what to do
  - “Team” mentality is not at the forefront of thesis-driven research

Topics in Biomedical Ethics Lecture for Graduate Students

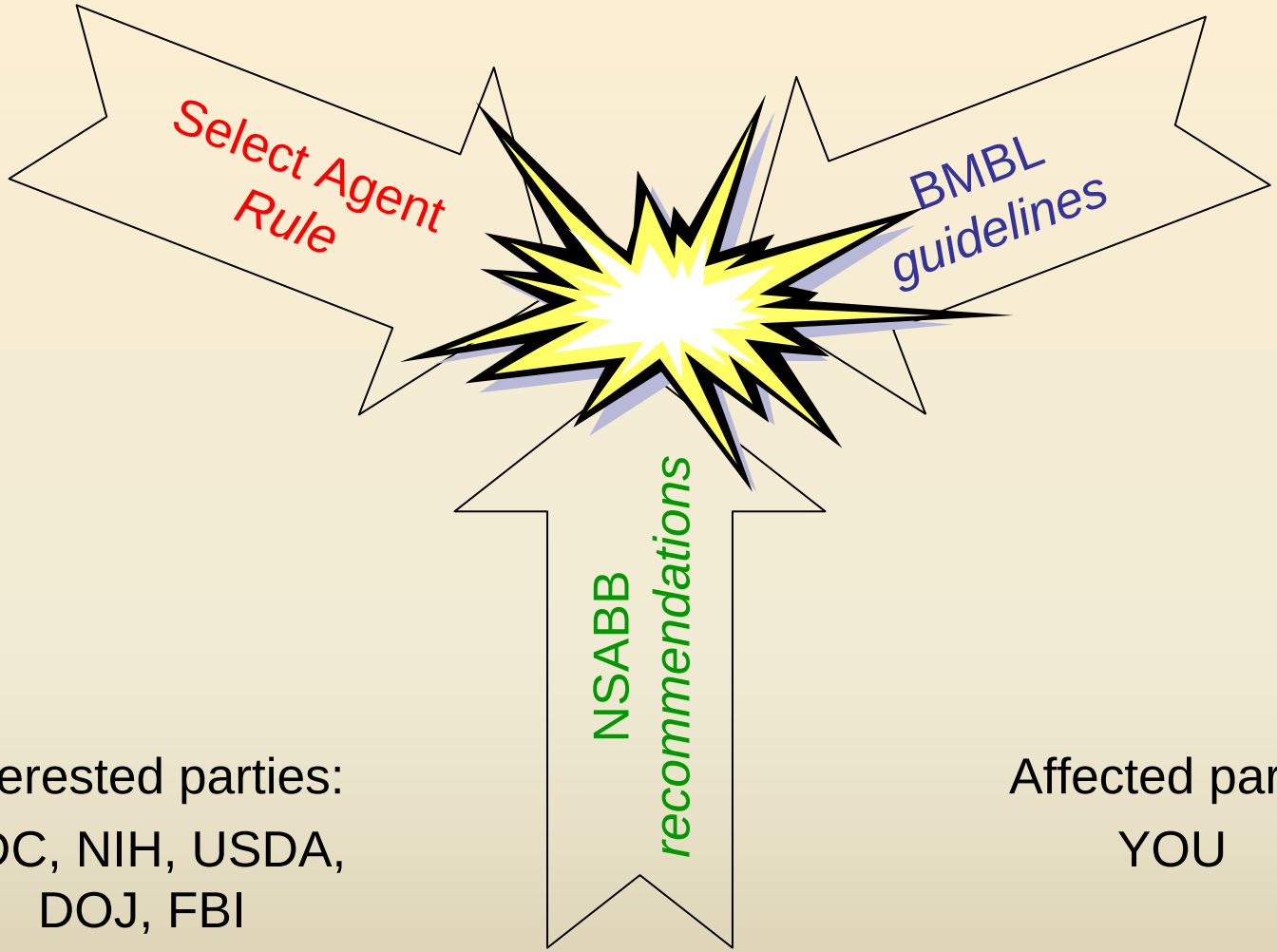
- Where Safety and Security Meet
  - Relationship between Safety and Security
  - Who are the interested parties?

- Select Agent Rules
  - What are they and where did they come from?
  - What do they mean for us?

- Dual Use Research
  - Can we define it?
  - Will we know it when we see it?

- What's our Responsibility?
  - Do we need a code of ethics?
  - If we do nothing, others will certainly do something.

Safety meets Security



Interested parties:

CDC, NIH, USDA, DOJ, FBI

Affected party:

YOU

Biomedical Ethics Course Slide

NSABB *recommendations* → Dual Use

- What is IT?
- What do we do about IT?

"*<u>Legitimate</u> scientific research that may be misused to pose a biologic threat to public health, the environment, and/or national security*." NIH Office of Science Policy

• Do biomedical researchers have a responsibility to minimize the risk of proliferation?

• If so, what does that responsibility entail?

• How is security consciousness to be implemented in life science research?

So now we have lots of guidelines, rules, recommendations, and even a code of ethics…*

What do we do?

A. Follow the rules to the best of our ability.

B. Educate ourselves.

C. Deliberate.

<u>It is our responsibility</u>.