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Session on International Engagement on Dual Use Research



NSABB Session on International Working Group

Wednesday, February 27, 2008



Today's Topics

- Report on October 2007 Roundtable
- Other international engagement activities
- Planning for a 3rd International Roundtable



Dual Use Issues in Life Sciences Research: A Roundtable on Strategies for Fostering International Engagement

October 2007



Definitions

Dual Use Research

 Biological research with legitimate scientific purpose that may be misused to pose a biologic threat to public health and/or national security (NSABB Revised Charter)

Dual Use Research of Concern

 Research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied by others to pose a threat to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, or materiel (Oversight Framework Document)



Goals of Roundtable

- Enhance awareness, foster communication, enhance coordination and facilitate cooperation regarding dual use life sciences research issues
- Learn about current and planned activities of involved organizations
- Provide a foundation for the IWG to identify options for fostering further constructive international engagement



Roundtable: Organization

- 4 Panels to describe relevant activities and plans:
 - Academies
 - Scientific Unions
 - Intergovernmental Organizations
 - Foundations
- Discussants



Questions and Issues Addressed by Panelists

- Scope of and goals for current activities
- Mechanisms used to carry out those activities
- Partners in those activities
- Challenges
- How the success of those activities are measured and evaluated
- Lessons learned and advice you would give to others planning activities
- The unmet needs in this area
- Future plans



Major Points

- Underlying concepts and challenges in developing a dual use research international engagement strategy
- Definitional problems confound the use of terms such as dual use research, biosafety, and biosecurity in international and national settings
- Promoting awareness of dual use research issues
- Promoting education and training in dual use research issues



Major Points (cont.)

- Promoting communication about dual use research among interested parties
- Approaches to coordination and collaboration
- The need for international guidance, guidelines, and standards
- Monitoring and evaluation



Other International Engagement Activities



International Presentations by NSABB IWG Co-Chair

Moscow7-8 Feb

Islamabad6-8 Jun

Singapore 24-25 Sep

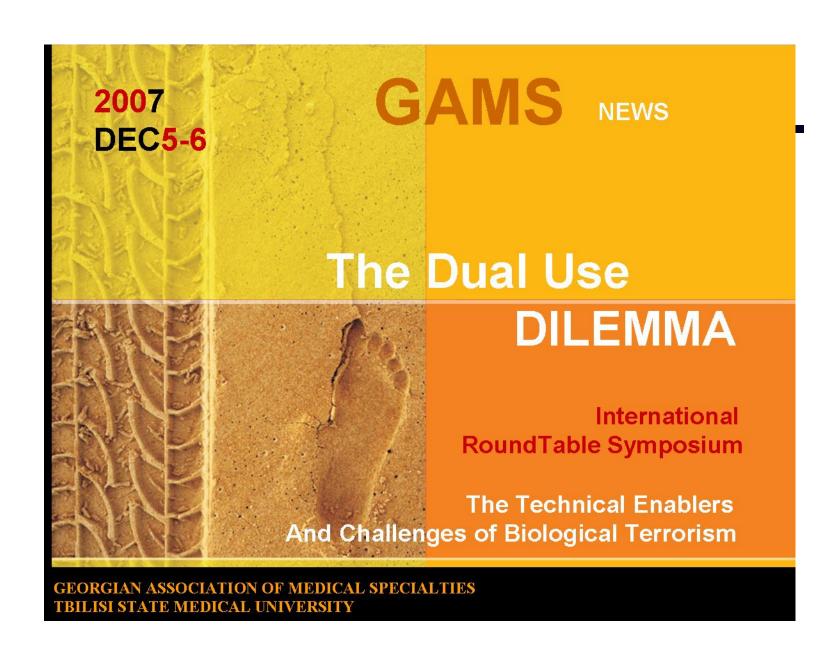
Beijing3-5 Nov

Warsaw9-10 Nov

Tbilisi4-5 Dec

Bangkok7-14 Dec







Georgian Dual-Use Meeting

Purpose of the meeting

- Introduce the concept of dual-use
- Communicate regarding ongoing work
 - Biosafety and Biosecurity
 - Pandemic and Epidemic Preparedness
- Consider the university role in capacity building
 - Research
 - Communication and Exchange
 - Training and Capacity-building
- International Cooperation



Agenda for Georgia Dual Use Meeting

- Overview of tech enablers and challenges
- Challenges of BS/BS Education at university
- Research on Bioterrorism
- International Scientific Cooperation
- Discussion



Georgia Dual Use Meeting Consensus Regarding Principles

- Life science research cross all sectors and are essential to advance health and well being
- Some materials, technologies and information form the life sciences can be misused intentionally or accidentally
- We must maintain a productive life sciences enterprise
- Awareness and education are necessary to prevent misuse of science while protecting discovery
- Legislation may be needed, but must be done so as to facilitate the benefits and limit disruption to the industry
- We must strengthen the culture of responsibility
- Stakeholders include Prime Minister, Ministries, the Academy of Science, NGOs and the media
- Life sciences are global; our efforts must be global



NSABB International Working Group

Activities for 2008



A Continuum of Strategies for International Engagement

Agreement

Collaboration

Coordination

Cooperation

Communication

Awareness



International Engagement Activities

- Raise Awareness
- Learn what others are doing internationally
- Member presentations at scientific conferences and workshops (NSABB "emissaries")
- Begin drafting of the NSABB International Strategy after the USG policy decisions are made
- Continue to collaborate with the Outreach and Education Panel of the NSABB



Initial Planning for the 3rd International Roundtable



Purpose

- Raise awareness
- Learn what others are doing internationally
- Discuss mechanics of international engagement
- Inform drafting of NSABB International Strategy



3rd International Roundtable

- Co-sponsors: USG and WHO
- Hosted by NSABB IWG
- Bethesda, MD
- Two days, early November 2008
- Potential Participants
 - Countries with oversight "tools" and/or policies
 - Prior Roundtable participants willing to share "lessons learned"
 - Additional countries in order to widen the circle of interest
- Panels of 3-4 speakers
- Plenary and break-out sessions