

# **Session on International Engagement on Dual Use Research**



**NSABB Session on International Working Group**

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008**



# Today's Topics

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- **Report on October 2007 Roundtable**
- **Other international engagement activities**
- **Planning for a 3<sup>rd</sup> International Roundtable**



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

**October 2007**



# Definitions

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- **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

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- **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

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



# Questions and Issues Addressed by Panelists

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- **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

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- **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.)

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- **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

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- **Moscow** 7-8 Feb
- **Islamabad** 6-8 Jun
- **Singapore** 24-25 Sep
- **Beijing** 3-5 Nov
- **Warsaw** 9-10 Nov
- **Tbilisi** 4-5 Dec
- **Bangkok** 7-14 Dec



**2007**  
**DEC 5-6**

**GAMS** NEWS

**The Dual Use**

**DILEMMA**

**International  
RoundTable Symposium**

**The Technical Enablers  
And Challenges of Biological Terrorism**

**GEORGIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SPECIALTIES  
TBILISI STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**



# Georgian Dual-Use Meeting

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## 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

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- 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

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- 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

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**Agreement**

**Collaboration**

**Coordination**

**Cooperation**

**Communication**

**Awareness**



# International Engagement Activities

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- **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 3<sup>rd</sup> International Roundtable

# Purpose

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





# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Roundtable

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- **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**