

*Dual Use Concerns in Life Sciences Research:
An International Dialogue*

Archived Videocast in English and Spanish, with additional information on Dual Use Research and Dual Use Research of Concern, is now available online:

<http://oba.od.nih.gov/biosecurity/internationalwebcast.html>

Background

On October 22, 2009, the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH) sponsored its first regional Webinar on dual use research, hosted by the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB). The goal of the event was to foster international engagement of life sciences researchers, biosafety and biosecurity experts, government policy officials, and ethicists on the issue of dual use life sciences research.

Effective global dialogue on concerns and issues regarding dual use life sciences research is key to achieving an effective balance between public health priorities and national security concerns. Numerous national- and international-level activities are currently underway to raise awareness of the risks posed by dual use life sciences research as well as to address or manage these risks while, at the same time, promoting responsible life sciences research. This international Videocast focused on the Americas is the first in a series of internet-based meetings aimed at engaging the international community by region. To learn more about dual use research visit: <http://oba.od.nih.gov/biosecurity/>.

Program

The program was organized around four presentations followed by a question and answer session. Participants from the Americas were invited to submit questions and comments via email, and these were discussed by the panel.

Presentations

- What is “dual use research” and “dual use research of concern”?
- How can risks associated with “dual use research of concern” be meaningfully assessed?
- What strategies for managing and/or addressing these risks have been proposed or implemented?
- What is being done to strengthen research governance in the Americas?

Panel

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Next Steps

The NSABB is considering hosting a series of similar events in regions around the world in the coming years.