Session I
Results of the Risk and Benefit Assessments of Gain-of-Function Studies

Moderators:
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Risk and Benefit Assessments of Gain-of-Function Studies

Purpose of the risk and benefit assessments (RBA)

To provide an independent, evidence-based analysis of the potential risks and potential benefits associated with certain GOF studies

NSABB's goal with the RBA

- Understand the different risks associated with research involving certain pathogens and certain GOF experiments
- Identify and distinguish GOF studies that raise significant concerns from those that do not
- Identify and evaluate the potential benefits of GOF studies
- Compare the potential benefits derived from GOF studies to those that may be achieved through alternative approaches

Timeline

- May 2015: NSABB Framework to guide RBA approved
- June 2015: Gryphon Scientific presented its work plan to NSABB working group
- July – November: NSABB working group received periodic updates on RBA progress and some preliminary work products
- November 2015: RBA results were presented to NSABB working group

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Presenter:

Rocco Casagrande, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator, commissioned Risk and Benefit Analysis of GOF Research

Discussion Panelists:

- Thomas Inglesby, M.D., UPMC Center for Health Security
- Stephen Eubank, Ph.D., Virginia Tech
- Ron Fouchier, Ph.D., Erasmus Medical Center
- Daniel Jernigan, M.D., M.P.H., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Kanta Subbarao, M.B., B.S., M.P.H., National Institutes of Health
- David Relman, M.D., Stanford University

Submit questions: nsabb@od.nih.gov

Risk and Benefit Assessments – Discussion

Questions for Discussion

- What are the strengths and limitations of the risk and benefit assessments?
- Which GOF studies are of greatest concern, if any? Which are of less concern?
- Are the assumptions, approaches, and findings about risks and benefits associated with GOF studies comprehensive and sound?
- Are there specific risks or benefits that are over- or understated in the risk and benefit assessments?