National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity

Update from the NSABB Working Group on Institutional DURC Policy Stakeholder Engagement

Joseph E. McDade, Ph.D.
Chair, NSABB Working Group

WORKING GROUP ROSTER

NSABB Voting Members

Joseph E. McDade (Chair)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Ret.)

Marie-Louise Hammarskjöld
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Joseph Kanabrocki
University of Chicago

Theresa M. Koehler
University of Texas Medical School at Houston

Francis L. Macrina
Virginia Commonwealth University

Jean L. Patterson
Texas Biomedical Research Institute

I. Gary Resnick
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Federal Agency Representatives

Dennis Dixon
National Institutes of Health

Samuel Edwin
Centers for Disease Control

Gerald Epstein
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Meg Flanagan
Department of State

Andrew Ford
National Institutes of Health

Wendy Hall
Department of Homeland Security

Janelle Hurwitz
Department of Health and Human Services

Theresa Lawrence
Department of Health and Human Services

Christopher Park
Department of State

NSABB TASK

- Help the U.S. government plan and host one or more meeting(s) to solicit feedback from stakeholders about their experiences implementing the *United States Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern*.

- The NSABB Working Group reviewed the institutional DURC policy and other information to:
  - Identify a suitable meeting location
  - Identify appropriate meeting participants/panelists
  - Identify topics and questions to be addressed
  - Develop the meeting format and draft agenda

STAKEHOLDER MEETING OVERVIEW

The purpose of the meeting is to engage stakeholders involved in implementation of the institutional DURC policy and solicit feedback regarding:

- Procedures and actions taken to implement the policy
- Experiences and challenges associated with implementing the policy and solutions/steps taken to address them
- Procedures for, and challenges associated with, reviewing research subject to the policy and identifying DURC
- Best practices and challenges associated with developing and/or implementing risk mitigation plans
- Best practices and novel strategies for managing DURC
- Effective strategies for educating and training investigators and staff about DURC issues

STAKEHOLDER MEETING OVERVIEW

Stakeholder Meeting Venue

September 25 – 26, 2017

Warwick Allerton Hotel, Chicago, IL

Meeting Participants:

- Representatives from institutions subject to the US policy for institutional oversight of DURC including:
  - Senior research administrators
  - Institutional Review Entity (IRE) chairs and members
  - Institutional Contacts for Dual Use Research (ICDUR)
  - Research investigators
  - Biological Safety Officers and other relevant institutional officials
  - USG officials

PANEL SESSIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Day 1

- Session I: Overview of the *USG Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Science Dual Use Research of Concern*
  - Review of the DURC issue and the U.S. government policy for institutional oversight of DURC
- Session II: Establishing an Institutional Framework for Governance of Dual Use Research and an Institutional Review Entity
  - Discussion of approaches taken by institutions to establish and implement a system for institutional oversight of DURC
- Session III: Institutional Processes for Identifying and Reviewing Research Subject to the Policy
  - *Discussion of institutional approaches to and experiences with identifying and evaluating research subject to the policy*

PANEL SESSIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Day 1

- Session IV: Risk mitigation: Funding agency perspective
  - Discussion of federal agency approaches to working with institutions to develop risk mitigation plans for research identified as DURC
- Session V: Institutional Approaches to Developing and Implementing Risk Mitigation Plans
  - Discussion of institutional approaches to the development and implementation of risk mitigation plans for research determined to be DURC
- Session VI: Open forum for Stakeholder Input
  - Open discussion with meeting participants on experiences, challenges, and best practices regarding implementation of the institutional DURC policy

PANEL SESSIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Day 2

- Session VII: Institutional Approaches: Raising Awareness and Education about DURC
  - Discussion of institutional approaches to educating staff, IRE members, investigators, and laboratory personnel about the dual use issue and their roles/requirements under the policy.
- Session VIII: Researcher Perspectives on the Institutional DURC Policy
  - Discussion of DURC policy implementation and associated experiences at the laboratory level
- Session IX: Open Forum for Stakeholder Input/Future Directions
  - Open discussion with meeting participants on experiences, challenges, and best practices regarding implementation of the institutional DURC policy

STAKEHOLDER MEETING OUTCOMES

- The NSABB will develop a summary of the proceedings highlighting
  - Institution experiences
  - Challenges encountered and solutions found
  - Best practices for institutional oversight of DURC

- The Working Group envisions this will
  - Facilitate sharing of best practices among stakeholders
  - Inform future USG efforts to evaluate the institutional DURC policy
  - Inform consideration of whether/what additional stakeholder engagement activities are needed and on what specific topics

NSABB DISCUSSION

The Working Group welcomes feedback from the Board on

- Meeting format and sessions
- Topics and questions to be addressed
- Other suggestions to enhance stakeholder engagement