



Wilton Park

Programme

Dual-use biology: how to balance open science with security

Sunday 15 – Wednesday 18 September 2013 | WP1260

This meeting, which will include government and law enforcement officials, practising scientists, NGOs and academics, will conduct a thoughtful, evidence based appraisal of security concerns surrounding real world examples of past dual-use research of concern as well as hypothetical experiments, and will explore options for managing concerns at all stages, from conception of an experimental question to publication of results.

Historical case studies such as H5N1 and mousepox will be used to develop options for coordinated and consensual action, which will then be applied in scenario-building exercises. Questions of outreach to, and engagement with, scientific communities will also be covered.

In association with Federal Foreign Office, Berlin; The National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, The Hague; Ministry of Defence, London; National Institutes of Health, Washington DC; Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque

Sunday 15 September

1500	Participants arrive
1615-1700	Tea and coffee served
1700-1715	Welcome and introduction Mark Smith Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning
1715-1845	1. Introduction to conference: balancing open science and responsible security If the right balance is to be struck, then policy makers and the public must have access to sound, fact-based analysis of potential security concerns and a range of appropriate tools and approaches to manage them. What are the main security concerns, and where is the evidence that such concerns are valid? How does it relate to past dual-use research of concern? How can likelihood and impact best be evaluated, and how are they to be weighed against possible benefits? In practical terms, what options exist for dealing with such concerns? Sir Mark Walport Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government, Government Office for Science, London

Richard Johnson
Chief Executive Officer, Global Helix LLC, Bethesda

1900

Drinks reception and conference dinner hosted by
Richard Burge
Chief Executive, Wilton Park

Monday 16 September

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

2. Ensuring appropriate risk assessment

This session will look at how to make sound risk assessments at the outset of the research, and potentially also during it as the research evolves and possible new security considerations emerge. It will cover approaches to assessing risk, and also the challenge of evaluating risk against possible benefits. How can the various agents involved (scientists, government, law enforcement, international organisations, public health etc) coordinate and collaborate to maintain awareness of, and respond to, security implications? How can commonly-accepted criteria be established? How can the assessment be constructed cooperatively?

(Case study: 1918 influenza)

Larry Kerr

Director for Medical Preparedness Policy, White House National Security Staff,
Washington DC

Marianne Donker

Director of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Hague

Theo Bot

Deputy National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism, National Coordinator
Security and Counterterrorism, The Hague

1045-1115

Tea/coffee break

1115-1245

3. Managing security risks during the research process

If the risk assessment raises concerns, how can they be managed during the research process? What happens if a risk is identified at a later stage during the conduct of an experiment, perhaps as a result of the experimental design, rather than the actual research goal? To what extent do laboratory containment, biosafety, and biosecurity approaches address these risks? What issues are raised by routine scientist-to-scientist communication in advance of publication? What are the options for interventions, and are these the same or different in regions with lower capacity?

(case study: Mousepox)

John-Erik Hansen

Director, Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness (CBB), Statens Serum Institut,
Copenhagen

Reinhard Burger

President, Robert Koch Institut, Berlin

1300

Lunch

1500-1630

4. Issues around publication

This session will look at cases where the real issues arise around communication of findings. How to assess desirability and conditions of publication? Who makes the final call? Is the point of publication simply too late for meaningful intervention? Does publication pose only security questions, or should safety issues (eg from replication of an experiment on a wider basis) also be considered?

(case study: H5N1 papers)

Steve Eley

Senior Fellow, CB Hazard Assessment and Threat Reduction, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), Salisbury

Christopher Park

Director, Biological Policy Staff, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, US Department of State, Washington DC

1630-1715

Conference photograph followed by tea and coffee break

1715-1845

5. Working groups

These working groups will draw out implications of the historical case studies, and identify what can be applied to the hypothetical case studies tomorrow.

1845-1915

Report back from working groups

1930

Dinner

Tuesday 17 September

0800-0845

Breakfast

0915-1045

6. Implementation: a hypothetical case study

Here, we will run a single hypothetical case study, prepared in advance, debated in a roundtable format. Participants are asked to plot various interventions based on the outcomes of the preceding day's discussions.

1045-1115

Tea/coffee break

1115-1245

7. Outreach, engagement and generating support

This session will look at how to generate better recognition of security concerns among scientists, eg how to clearly assess and articulate security concerns, weigh them against potential benefits, and get better buy-in by scientists.

Edward You

Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington DC

Derek Smith

Professor of Infectious Disease Informatics; Director, Centre for Pathogen Evolution, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge

1300

Lunch

1500-1630

8. Polling session

Using electronic polling techniques, we will gauge participant support or disagreement with key outcomes of the working groups and the preceding sessions.

1630-1700

Tea/coffee break

1700-1800

9. Conclusions

Report back from polling session, plus summary by conference rapporteur(s)

1830

Drinks reception followed by dinner

Wednesday 18 September

0800

Breakfast and payment of bills

0915

Participants depart