

NATIONAL SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD FOR BIOSECURITY

NSABB Inaugural Meeting: Opening Remarks



June 30th - July 1st, 2005
Hyatt Regency Bethesda
Bethesda, Maryland

National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB)

Created by the U.S. Government to provide advice, guidance, and leadership regarding biological research that has the potential for misuse and could pose a biologic threat to public health or national security.

Scientific Progress

- **Scientific discovery and innovation yield global benefits.**
- **Life sciences research aims to enhance human health through advances in medicine and agriculture.**

Why Now?

- **Biological systems are routinely altered to study and understand life processes and disease.**
- **Some results and techniques could be misused to threaten public health or national security.**

Dual Use Research

- **Dual use research is life sciences research that:**
 - **Is conducted for legitimate scientific purpose**
 - **Yields results or technologies that may be misused to threaten public health and/or national security**

Objectives of the Board

- **Advise on national policies regarding dual use research**
- **Balance the need between scientific progress and biosecurity**
- **Enhance the culture of responsibility among life scientists**

National Biosecurity Initiatives

- **Enhancing our nation's biosecurity is an ongoing and dynamic process.**
- **NSABB is one of many of the Administration's initiatives to ensure Americans are protected from biological threats.**
- **Other initiatives:**
 - **USA PATRIOT Act (2001)**
 - **Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act (2002)**
 - **Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act (2002)**
 - **Promotion and conduct of research on the development of countermeasures to biologic threats**

NSABB Charge

- **Provide advice, guidance, and leadership regarding biosecurity of dual use research to the U.S. government.**
- **Advise and recommend specific strategies for efficient and effective oversight of federally conducted or supported dual use research, with consideration for both national security and the needs of the research community.**