

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY POLICY

The AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy worked in the interest of global security through a broad range of events and initiatives. Periodic sessions on Capitol Hill and at AAAS encouraged dialogue about security issues between scientists and government policymakers. International workshops offered collaborative opportunities to scientists in other countries, and AAAS-organized discussions brought together divergent research and security communities on security-related issues.



U.S. Ambassador Susan Burk spoke at a “short course” briefing on nuclear security.

NUCLEAR SECURITY SHORT COURSE

AAAS presented five intensive sessions on nuclear-security issues for Congressional and federal agency staffers in 2011. The “short course” brought together respected scholars and other leading experts who shared their insights on nuclear weapons, proliferation, arms control and terrorism.

Under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the course was part of a broader effort to build expertise within Congress on nuclear security issues. Additional seminars explored issues ranging from detecting concealed nuclear radiation sources, to White House planning advice for a response to a nuclear detonation—facilitating valuable interaction between the science and security communities. Field trips took Congressional staffers to nuclear security facilities in this country and abroad.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE BIOSCIENCE

In 2011, the Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy (CSTSP) hosted the second and third workshops in a series on fostering safety and security in bioscience research in countries from the broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA). The workshops sought to encourage international cooperation against such threats as infectious disease. The conferences incorporated input regarding particular challenges that were cited by BMENA university administrators



The AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy hosted a workshop in Kuwait on fostering safety and security in bioscience research.

and science leaders, while exploring how to improve capabilities to prevent and respond to biological threats whether natural, accidental or intentional. Discussion focused on common principles in bioethics, biosafety and biosecurity to foster responsible research conduct at the institutional level and to minimize biological research risks.

FBI, AAAS COLLABORATE ON OUTREACH EFFORT

AAAS and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continued to reach out to biotech researchers and “do-it-yourself” amateur biologists to address security issues while respecting the research process. Ongoing meetings between the FBI, AAAS and professional researchers and community biology groups are intended to ensure that rules are not imposed out of mistrust or fear, as such measures could impede biological research without really improving security. Collaboration, one AAAS biosecurity expert said, is “ultimately going to be a lot more productive and lot more useful in reaching the end goals of security and science.”



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DIYbio co-founder Mackenzie Cowell (seated) and FBI Supervisory Special Agent Edward H. You talked during a meeting at AAAS.