

This report and its findings are based on the international seminar

***Enhancing Biosafety and Biosecurity:
An Agenda for Global Action
A Seminar for Experts from the G8 Countries***

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I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy
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This seminar was convened by



International Council for the Life Sciences (ICLS)
I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy (MMA)
Non Commercial Partnership The Center of Modern Medical Technology “TEMPO”

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The International Council for the Life Sciences (ICLS) is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, USA. The ICLS is helping to enhancing biological security and biological safety and reducing biological weapons proliferation risks. It is a membership-based organization that brings together life sciences organizations from academia, private industry, nongovernmental organizations, and governments from around the world to identify critical biological risks and to develop and promote international guidelines, best practices, codes of conduct and/or regulations to manage these risks.

For more information on the ICLS visit www.iclscharter.org.

The I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy (MMA), established in 1765, is the largest educational institution in Russia in medicine and pharmacology, as well as a center of excellence in research and development in the biomedical sciences. The Moscow Medical Academy brings together an education center, clinical center, and a research center, including 61 laboratories and 5 research institutes. MMA, together with TEMPO and MMA's Institute of Molecular Medicine, run the annual International Conference on Molecular Medicine and Biosafety.

For more information visit www.mmascience.ru.

The Non Commercial Partnership “Center of Modern Medical Technology” TEMPO is the Biotechnology Consortium that brings together leading Russian research & development and manufacturing & sales organizations for the development and advancement of innovative biotechnologies. TEMPO focuses on providing leadership in regulatory affairs, industry outreach, and innovation support to its member institutions. TEMPO is currently a dynamic consortium that unites 17 organizations. TEMPO member institutions' areas of specialization include research and development, the manufacture of diagnostics and biopharmaceuticals against human diseases, veterinary products, space biotechnology, and biological instrumentation.

For more information on TEMPO visit www.nptemp.ru.

The Global Partnership Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada is intended to address one of the most serious security threats facing our world today by preventing terrorist groups from obtaining weapons and materials of mass destruction (WMD) to carry out their campaigns.

For more information visit www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/foreign_policy/global_partnership/menu-en.asp

The International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) was established by an international agreement in November 1992 as a nonproliferation program. The ISTC coordinates the efforts of numerous governments, international organizations, and private sector industries, providing weapons scientists from Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) new opportunities in international partnership. Through its political, legal, and financial frameworks, the ISTC contributes to Fundamental Research, International Programs and Innovation and Commercialization, by linking the demands of international markets with the exceptional pool of scientific talent available in Russian and CIS institutes.

For more information on the ISTC visit www.istc.ru.

Foreword

Having dedicated a substantial portion of my professional career examining the security implications of scientific advances, I can fully appreciate the significant need for an independent non-profit organization focused on biological risks, whatever their origin. Traditional governance structures of national governments and international organizations are overwhelmed by the fast-paced developments and dissemination of the life sciences and associated technologies. While governments will remain an important component in addressing biological risks, effectively meeting this challenge requires a new approach. It must be inclusive of the entire risk spectrum - ranging from naturally occurring infectious disease to deliberate misuse - and directly engage the global life sciences community. By promoting the International Council for the Life Sciences (ICLS), I hope to provide a forum for exactly that.

Reaping the rewards and reducing the risks of innovations in the life sciences and related technologies serves as the foundation for the ICLS and its activities. While such advances offer new medicines and extraordinary benefits to industrial processes, they can pose serious threats to public health, safety and security. I firmly believe that the best course of action to reduce the misuse of the life sciences is to raise awareness of the full spectrum of biological risks, promote international safety and security standards worldwide, and provide a forum for the safe exchange of information and best practices.

More than seventy experts from the G8 countries plus Sweden, representing government, academia and industry, participated in a two day seminar on *Enhancing Biological Safety and Security: An Agenda for Global Action* in April 2006. This meeting summary provides their recommendations to reduce biological risks through improved disease surveillance, widely accepted standards for biosafety and biosecurity, education and training curricula for scientists and policy officials, increased international

cooperation, greater exchange of information and best practices, and developing a common methodological approach for biological risk assessment. Implementing these recommendations will not only require the sustained engagement of the global life sciences community but a firm commitment by governments and international organizations. While the 2006 Russian Presidency of the G8 and President Putin's stated interest in infectious disease provided an incentive for the seminar, the resulting report and recommendations are global in scope.

The International Council for the Life Sciences was greatly pleased to partner with the Non-Commercial Partnership TEMPO and the I.M. Sechenov Moscow Medical Academy in planning and conducting the Seminar, and I look forward to continuing collaboration. The support of the Global Partnership Program at Foreign Affairs Canada and the International Science and Technology Center were invaluable to the success of the seminar. The efforts by Canada to reduce biological proliferation risks and to promote international cooperation are of paramount importance.

The seminar conducted in Moscow is a demonstration of the cooperation that is needed to manage biological risks and is truly a step in the right direction. I look forward to welcoming new partners and members into the ICLS network to promote advances in the life sciences and collaboratively identify and manage biological risks to public health, safety and security.

This report is our effort to provide a comprehensive overview of the seminar. The authors endeavored to accurately convey the information and ideas given by the participants and we take full responsibility for the final content of the report.

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