

Written comments for NSABB meeting Jan 7-8, 2016

January 3, 2016

National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity
Office of Science Policy, OD
Rockledge 1, Suite 750
6705 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Chairman Stanley and Members of the NSABB:

I am writing to express my support for the comments submitted by Marc Lipsitch, Stanley Plotkin, and Lynn Klotz. I am deeply concerned by the potential fatalities that could result from accidental laboratory infections that might occur in a laboratory conducting gain-of-function research on influenza and other infectious diseases. The number of accidental releases of potentially fatal pathogens in recent years has demonstrated unequivocally that human error is inevitable and impossible to completely eliminate from experiments with deadly pathogens. Specifically, I agree with Dr. Lipsitch that resistance to countermeasures should be deleted from the requirements for Gain of Function of concern research. I concur that the benefits of this research are overestimated, and that the risks are being borne by non-consenting members of the public and disproportionately by those in developing nations that would not be able to implement countermeasures.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously and including the voices of concerned scientists in your deliberations on how to address the potential dangers to the public from GOF research.

Sincerely yours,



Carlos S. Moreno, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Emory University School of Medicine

cmoreno@emory.edu
Whitehead Bldg, Rm 105J
615 Michael St.
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-712-2809 (Ph)