

Roundtable II Discussion: How does progress in biotechnology influence risk assessment methodologies and results?

- What aspects of risk assessment does biotechnology impact the most?
- Are new risk assessment approaches needed to capture the impact of biotechnology changes? What are the major strengths and limitations of our current approaches?
- How often should risk assessments be revised or updated to accommodate biotechnology progress?
- What are some of the major limitations in communicating risk to the public concerning new biotechnologies?

Thoughts, ideas, and issues discussed during Round Table II Oct 7, 2009

- Update or manage our models to qualify the conclusions
- For emerging biotech, we can use the same models but with different data
- Model validation as biotechnology changes
- Experimental changes can't be modeled
- Broader concept of actors
- Data available widely and skills more multidisciplinary
- What can we monitor as technology changes?
- Need the right subject matter experts to evaluate the degree of difficulty, today and in the future
- Symposium and forums should look at what is ahead and what is plausible
- We have the categories needed to model threats even with emerging technology, e.g. agents, production, intent, dissemination, the relative importance, however, may change
- What level of consequences is relevant?
- Who is the actor in the model?
- Goals
- Capabilities
- Raising awareness among policy makers, scientists, etc is a key mitigation component
- Can models flag aspects depending on the questions? Level of detail of sensitivity
- What's the terrorist driver? Does emerging biotechnology change this driver?