

Roundtable IV Discussion: WMD Commission Report

- Do our risk assessment approaches reach similar conclusions as the WMD Commission report?
- How should biological risk assessments impact the implementation of the major recommendations of the WMD Commission Report?
- Based upon the Report's recommendations, how can various governmental agencies work together to contribute to the risk assessment process?
- What are the current limitations hindering implementation of the Report's threat awareness recommendations?

Thoughts, ideas, and issues discussed during Round Table IV Oct 8, 2009

- Countries are starting to implement pathogen security or have already implemented security, this is starting to be the norm
- The Risk Assessment should/could feed into agent lists
 - The size of the list
 - Tiers of agents
- Metrics of success for the security rules
- There are advantages and disadvantages to implementing joint safety and security regulations
- Do mitigation measures really reduce the 'real' risk or do they only provide a level of security for the general public
- Good security is designed to protect against outsiders, but current security implementation methods are not focusing on the inside
- Does or how should the risk assessment reflect the threats of insiders?
- International perceptions and mismatch of pathogen handling
 - One way shipment of samples
- Regulations make science harder, are they worth it?
- How should the results of the Risk Assessment be used? What other data is needed before regulations are implemented? How should the results be communicated?
- Stakeholder consultations are important
- Cost/Benefit analysis of risk mitigation options should be quantified in the model
- General perceptions of scientist
 - Communication of science to the public
- Can the Risk Assessment be used to educate scientists?
- Stakeholders, policy makers, general public prejudices influence the Risk Assessment
- Role of self regulation?
- Do the Risk Assessments adequately influence policy makers?
- What is the foundation for the Risk Assessment?
 - Culture of partnership
 - Based on facts of society
- Value of decoupling technical assessment from the rest of the analysis
- How to minimize radicalization in scientists
- Risk Assessment for prevention vs. response
- Awareness raising on social norms