



Bilateral Video teleconference (VTC)

Responsible Conduct of Research Session March 16, 2011

**Organized by AAAS and the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) in collaboration with
NIH/NSABB**

NOTE: This session was part of the [*AAAS International Engagement Meeting: Responsible Bioscience for a Safe and Secure Society*](#)

AAAS-Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait City Kuwait,
[March 13-17, 2011](#)

Organized by the AAAS, and the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR)

Discussions during the March 13-17 workshop included:

- Identification of research needs to support national level societal needs in the BMENA (Broader Middle East and North Africa countries.)
- Principles and practices in ethical, safe and secure laboratory conduct among life scientists in BMENA.
- The availability of resources to educate and/or reinforce those principles and good laboratory practices.
- Current mechanisms and challenges for developing and implementing training programs and oversight for good laboratory practice.
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), including biosecurity/dual use research (DUR), biosafety, and bioethics (A RCR session was incorporated into the agenda as an entire afternoon session on the final day.)

RCR VTC Session (March 16, 2011)

Purpose of the RCR Session

- To engage life scientists and policy makers from the BMENA region, focusing on the issue of responsible conduct of research.
- To focus on DUR/C in order to raise awareness about this topic among the workshop participants.
- To address DUR within the framework of RCR, which includes biosafety and bioethics.

Pre-VTC Program

- The RCR afternoon session began with a number of break-out sessions that focused on the various elements that constitute RCR.

VTC Program

- AAAS/NIH/NSABB participated in a two hour VTC component of the all-afternoon session on Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).
 - This RCR panel was composed of three speakers each respectively covering the bioethics, biosafety, and biosecurity/DUR perspectives on RCR.
 - The plenary session followed the earlier break-out sessions.
 - This session began with the rapporteurs reporting on the results of each of the break-out sessions.
 - Following these reports, brief presentations were given by each of three panelists addressing one of the three topic areas that constitute various elements of RCR: bioethics, biosafety, and biosecurity/DUR.
 - The plenary session continued with a general discussion involving the Kuwait panel, the workshop participants in Kuwait, and the AAAS/ NIH/NSABB biosecurity/DUR panel in Washington, DC
 - Dr. Katie Bowman, U.S. National Academy of Sciences, made several remarks about InterAcademy Program's international DUR activities.

VTC Participants

- Kuwait attendees: About 70 scientists and policymakers from across the BMENA region who were attending the March 13-16 AAAS/KISR Workshop, in addition to scientists and students working at KISR.
- Kuwait RCR panel presentations:
 - Moderator: Ara Tahmassian, Ph.D. - Associate Vice President- Research Compliance, Boston University and Boston Medical Center.
 - Panelist (bioethics and RCR): Dr. Zabta Shinwari- Professor & Chairman Department of Biotechnology, Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan.
 - Panelist (biosafety and RCR): James M. Welch- Executive Director of the Elizabeth R Griffin Research Foundation, Kingsport, TN, USA.
 - Panelist (security concerns and RCR/DUR): Dr. Michael Imperiale- NSABB member, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI, USA.
- D.C. discussant panel:
 - Dr. Kavita Berger, AAAS
 - Dr. Paul Keim, NSABB
 - Dr. Stuart Levy, NSABB