Developing Ethical Guidelines for Practitioners in the Life Sciences:
The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines

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Problem
Prior to the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines, there were no commonly accepted ethical standards for life scientists.

Solution
Develop and disseminate new ethical guidelines for life scientists. The research team produced iterative drafts of ethical guidelines for life scientists, incorporating feedback from an international cadre of experts in this space.

Past Inspiration
• The Hague Ethical Guidelines
• China/Pakistan 2015 Proposed Codes of Conduct
• IAP Statement on Biosecurity

Dissemination
• International Conferences
• Side event at the Biological Weapons Convention Prep Conn
• Institutional Dissemination (Endorsement from the InterAcademy Partnership, IUBMB)

The Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines
For Codes of Conduct for Scientists

- Ethical Standards
- Laws and Norms
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Respect for Research Participants
- Research Process Management
- Education and Training
- Research Findings Dissemination
- Public Engagement on Science and Technology
- Role of Institutions
- International Cooperation

A Global Perspective

Hosted two workshops with scientists from 21 countries across 6 continents. Comments informed and shaped the Tianjin Biosecurity Guidelines.

Discussion Questions
• Does your lab have a set of codes of conduct? If so, how recently have they been revised and what is the process like to amend them?
• What do you view as the most important element of ethical life science research?
• What do you think needs to be done to reach the goal of a global set of common ethical guidelines?