

September 7, 2006

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Dr. Kasper and Mr. Nance:

We would like to express our appreciation for the efforts of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) Working Group on Codes of Conduct in drafting guidelines for universities, professional societies, and research groups interested in addressing the responsibilities of scientists conducting research with dual-use potential. We foresee that these guidelines will lead to fruitful discussion about biological researchers' professional and moral responsibilities, and raise awareness among both seasoned and novice investigators and administrators about the implications of their everyday work.

We appreciate the Working Group's plans to clarify explicitly the nature of the document. As affirmed at the July 13 NSABB meeting and emphasized by participants in the Working Group's focus groups and expert panels, readers should be alerted that the document is intended to serve as an aid that professional bodies and organizations may consider in developing or revising their own statements on researcher responsibilities, rather than as a code in and of itself. We encourage NSABB to distribute the Working Group's document widely, not only to academic and government-funded research organizations and professional societies, but also among commercial research organizations, which conduct a growing proportion of critical biological research. The professional dialogue that the NSABB document calls for will promote responsible research throughout the U.S. and internationally.

We look forward to continued collaboration on the legal, ethical, and policy issues raised by research with dual-use potential, both through our individual members' consultations on NSABB's specific projects, and in support of our common goal of excellence in science.

Sincerely,



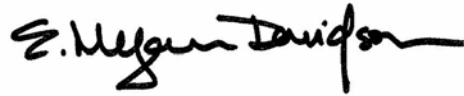
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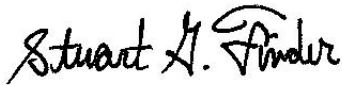
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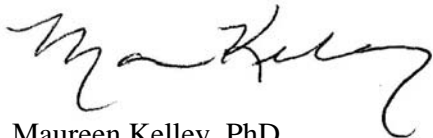
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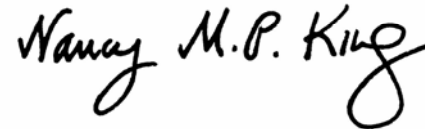
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