



March 22, 2022

---

**The Biological Threat Expanse:  
Current and Future Challenges to National Biodefense**

**OBJECTIVE**

Provide the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense with a better understanding of: (1) the expanding landscape of current and future biological threats; (2) the roles and responsibilities of the federal government in addressing various biological threats; and (3) biological weapons, terrorism, and arms races.

**SCHEDULE**

**10:00 – 10:30 am**                      **Opening Remarks**

**10:30 – 11:45 am**                      **Panel One: Federal Perspective**

*Federal officials will provide their views on biological threats from nation states, synthetic biology, and agroterrorism in addition to biodefense priorities for their respective departments and agencies.*

**Ian Watson, MS, MA**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense,  
Department of Defense

**Donald Alway, MS**

Assistant Director, Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

**12:00 – 12:45 pm**                      **Panel Two: Perspective of Congress**

*Member of Congress will provide their views on the biological threat and congressional priorities for the Intelligence Community in this regard.*

**Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-PA)**

Chairman, Subcommittee on Children and Families, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and Member, Select Committee on Intelligence, U.S. Senate

**12:45 – 1:30 pm**                      **Lunch**

**1:30 – 2:45 pm**                      **Panel Three: Human-Generated Threats and Vulnerabilities**  
*Experts will discuss catastrophic biological risks, accidental releases of pathogens into the environment, and dangerous biological information getting in the hands of bad actors.*

**Gregory D. Koblentz, PhD**

Assistant Professor and Director of Biodefense Graduate Programs,  
Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

**Kevin M. Esvelt, PhD**

Assistant Professor and Director, Sculpting Evolution Group, Media Lab,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Piers Millett, PhD**

Vice President, iGEM Foundation; Principal, Biosecure Ltd; Senior Research Fellow,  
Future of Humanity Institute, University of Oxford

**2:45 – 3:00 pm**                      **Break**

**3:00 – 4:15 pm**                      **Panel Four: Biological Weapons, Terrorism, and Arms Races**  
*Experts will provide their views on biological weapons, terrorism, and arms races.*

**Caroline Schuerger, PhD**

Research Fellow, Biotechnology Programs, Center for Security and Emerging Technology,  
Georgetown University

**Christine Parthemore, MA**

Chief Executive Officer, Council on Strategic Risks

**Edward H. You, MS**

National Counterintelligence Officer for Emerging and Disruptive Technologies, National  
Counterintelligence and Security Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence;  
Supervisory Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**4:15 – 4:30 pm**                      **Closing Remarks**

**4:30 pm**                                **Adjourn**