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Introduction

Dual use research of concern (DURC) is defined in the new U.S. Government Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern [1] as “life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technologies that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, agricultural crops and other plants, animals, the environment, materiel, or national security.” Its definition is nearly identical to the National Science

Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) DURC criterion proposed in June 2007 [2]. In 2011, the NBACC implemented oversight processes utilizing the NSABB recommended DURC criterion and the 2004 National Academies (Academies) report [3] of seven “experiments of concern” that would:

1. Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective,
2. Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents,
3. Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent,
4. Increase transmissibility of a pathogen,
5. Alter the host range of a pathogen,
- 6.

Citation:

