

From: [Elizabeth Heitman](#)
To: ["Zachary Adelman"](#); [Portney, Kent E](#)
Cc: [Goldsmith, Carol](#)
Subject: Updates and conversation?
Date: Tuesday, November 07, 2017 7:38:00 PM
Attachments: [Agenda - FNIH Talking About Gene Drives Workshop.pdf](#)

Happy November, all!

I am writing both to see whether you have heard anything about USDA's planned review of applications and to see whether you might be interested in short conference call late this week or next in which I can tell you about a series of 3 meetings I attended this past weekend. I attended a meeting of DARPA's Safe Genes "Legal, Ethical, Environmental, Dual-Use, and Responsible innovation (LEEDR)" group (by phone in my capacity as chair of the external ethics advisory committee for the GBIRd (Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents) Partnership, which is partially funded by DARPA), FNIH's meeting on "Communicating about Gene Drives", and Sunday's annual meeting of the GBIRd Partnership. I learned a lot of small bits of information that is mostly useful to fill in gaps in my understanding of where the field of gene drive research stands currently, particularly with regard to governance and and public engagement.

Perhaps the most instructive was the "Communicating about Gene Drive" meeting on Saturday. It was attended by a about 70 people from a variety of programs. The focus was decidedly on mosquitos, although there was a group of people interested in mice/rats, both from Island Conservation/GBIRd and Kevin Esvelt's mice-against-ticks program. One interesting aspect was that the Target Malaria people kept talking about "opponents" of gene drive and how to anticipate and overcome their objections. They had a bit of a marketing slant to their work, whereas others (including Kevin and – of course – Jason Delborne with GBIRd) were much more neutral in how they approached communication as a two way (or more) flow of information. There was a lot of talk about being ready for nrenewed efforts to bring about a moratorium on gene drive research at the 2020 Convention on Biological Diversity's COP. Some people were anxious about anti-GM groups' broader plans because there was apparently a FOIA request for the list of participants/recipients of information about the meeting. Very little was distributed as a result, beyond the attached agenda. There was no participants list, or at least nothing was distributed, because some people were anxious about their contact information being distributed among anti-GM folks, too.

Finally, in the course of the meeting on Saturday, no one mentioned the USDA grant but me. I know that a team from NC State put in an application, but if anyone else there did, they were keeping a low profile while people were talking about other application of gene drive and the need for other sources of funding.

More later if you want it,

Liz

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Talking About Gene Drive: Communications Workshop
November 4, 2017

Hilton Baltimore Hotel
401 W Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21201

Draft Agenda

Time	Session
8:30 – 9:00	Breakfast and networking
9:00 – 9:15	Introductions and meeting objectives
9:15 – 10:00	Media landscape A look at gene drive media coverage over the past 18 months and benchmarking against past scientific developments
10:00 – 10:30	Conventions and regulatory landscape A review of gene drive discussions within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the regulatory space
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 11:15	Public perception Moderated discussion on how different public audiences view GM mosquitoes
11:15 – 12:15	Gene drive terminology Presentation of preliminary findings of testing gene drive concepts and terminology with stakeholders and informed publics
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Applied communications Shared past experiences with reporters, government officials, the public; what works and what doesn't
2:00 – 2:15	Coffee break
2:15 – 4:45	Communications skills Tips and strategies for effective scientific communications
4:45 – 5:00	Wrap up Thoughts on what more is needed – additional materials, discussion sessions, etc.
5:00 – 5:30	Discussion on follow up Other topics that might benefit from collective thinking?

From: [Ruth Vinciguerra](#)
To: [Podolsky, Scott Harris](#)
Cc: [John Sadler](#); [Elizabeth Heitman](#); [Frederick Grinnell](#)
Subject: UT Southwestern - Travel Information - November 14, 2017
Date: Thursday, November 09, 2017 8:12:25 AM
Attachments: [Travel Reservation November 13 for SCOTT H PODOLSKY.pdf](#)
[Reservation Confirmation #95518528 for Renaissance Dallas Hotel .msg](#)
[Podolsky Itinerary FINAL.pdf](#)

Hi Dr. Podolsky,

To assist you with finalizing your travel plans for your trip to Dallas, I have attached copies of the following:

- Flight reservations,
- Hotel reservation, and
- Itinerary for your visit here.

Your hotel stay for Monday evening and A&B Transportation charges will be direct billed to UT Southwestern. However, please note that meals and snacks cannot be charged to your hotel bill. These charges must be paid by you and then, you can be reimbursed for them. Our reimbursement limits for meal are \$25/breakfast, \$50/lunch, and \$85/dinner – not to exceed \$125 total for the day (per person). Also, we do not reimburse for alcoholic beverages, movies, recreational facility charges, and personal items. Your dinner on Monday and lunch on Tuesday will be provided. I will send you an expense report for you to complete after your visit next week.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are looking forward to your visit next week!

Ruth

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