

**Subject:** [gbird] Update - Engagements - and Other Important Items

**From:** Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

**Date:** 2/15/2017 9:08 PM

**To:** "gbird@lists.ncsu.edu" <gbird@lists.ncsu.edu>

Hi GBIRD Partnership – Please Read,

- DARPA – Thanks again to John Godwin, who is leading a Herculean effort, an Everest Challenge. If successful, DARPA will have increased funding by orders of magnitude to this point!! We knew this was going to be DARPA hard going into the application, but PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE be continue to support any request he has regarding these negotiations!
- White House OSTP - Karl, Owain, Dan and I will be presenting the GBIRD program to the Pandemic Prediction and Forecasting Science and Technology Working Group at the White House Conference Center on Wednesday. There are ~150 governmental representatives on this working group. We can expect ~60 for the presentation. Modeling may be a prominent topic of discussion for this meeting.
- Modeling - Speaking of modeling, Jacob or I will send out a doodle poll with those associated with Modeling aspect of GBIRD. The intent is to formalize a process for integrating modeling data into our planning and strategy process. Please keep a lookout for this poll.
- Biosafety – I will be asking those involved with transgenic animal work to help put together a white paper on how our partnership addresses biosafety. Please be on the lookout for this too!
- DARPA – I heard from a colleague outside the partnership and outside DARPA that DARPA will be making a press release regarding the Safe Genes Program in April. I am not sure if the recipient organizations or sub-contractors will be identified. John – if you speak to Renee again in the near future, or email her, please bring this up.
- Australia – I contacted the Australian embassy in the US and am working on a visa to lend support to our colleagues in Oceania for basically June and July.
- Army Corps of Engineers – Several of us met with the Army Corps of Engineers just before the DARPA proposers' day in DC. They are convening a meeting in Massachusetts on safety aspects of synthetic biology releases in May. I received an invitation. If you received one too, please let me know. I will be coming in from Australia and will try to coordinate with an upcoming DARPA Safe Genes Kick Off Meeting (if necessary).

2017 is shaping up to be a banner year for this program and one that will be moving really fast. Many thanks for the continued efforts across the program to get us this far!

With Excitement and Apprehension,

Royden

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Chretien, JP EOP/OSTP

**Date:** Wed, Feb 15, 2017 at 4:37 PM

**Subject:** [PPFST All] Genetic Biocontrol of Invasive Rodents-Opportunities for Modeling

(Re-sending because of a system problem)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please join us for this special seminar co-hosted by the National Invasive Species Council and the Pandemic Prediction and Forecasting S&T Working Group. We will be joined by guest speakers J. Royden Saah, Karl Campbell, Owain Edwards, and Daniel Tompkins (brief biographies are attached), who will present new approaches to genetic biocontrol of invasive rodents for preventing extinction threats, disease outbreaks, and

food insecurity. We plan to discuss opportunities for outbreak modeling to help anticipate the impacts of these approaches.

We will update this invitation with slides, agenda, and background material.

Please let me know if you plan to attend in person (no need to RSVP for dial-in).

Thank you,

Jamie and JP

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Executive Director  
National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat  
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Jean-Paul Chretien, MD PhD  
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