



April 14, 2019

Institute of Plant Protection
Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
No. 2 West Yuanmingyuan Rd., Haidian District,
Beijing, 100193, P. R. China

Dear Dr. Nianwan Yang,

On behalf of our [Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security](#), we invite you to attend a series of 3 meetings, each focused on biosecurity and biosafety policy topics, which will be held in Washington, DC from July 23 - July 26, 2019. We define “biosecurity” as the policies, programs, and actions taken to prevent and respond to biological threats, whether they are natural, deliberate, or accidental. “Biosafety” refers to the safe handling of biological materials to prevent exposure to potentially infectious agents. Each of these meetings will be hosted at the St. Regis Hotel, 923 16th and K Streets, N.W, Washington, DC 20016. The proposed agendas for the meetings are attached for your consideration.

On July 23rd, we invite you to attend an introductory workshop called *Biosafety and Biosecurity in a Time of Contemporary Biological Advances*. This half day workshop will run from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm and will provide foundational background on the United States’ policy and governance climate around biosafety and biosecurity. Faculty from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security will serve as the speakers for this workshop, but you will be asked to actively engage in discussion on the topics and will be asked to comment on material presented. This will be a didactic workshop, and your active participation is requested. No scientific research will be conducted in relation to this event.

We also invite you to attend, on July 24-25, the Third Annual Research Symposium of the Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative ([ELBI](#)). Our Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security runs ELBI, which is a competitive fellowship program that seeks to identify and mentor the next generation of leaders in the biosecurity community. The ELBI Research Symposium is one of many ELBI events that occur each year. The purpose of the symposium is to showcase the work of current ELBI fellows and ELBI alumni in areas of mutual research interest. Approximately 70 ELBI fellows and alumni will attend this meeting, and approximately 20 fellows will be invited to give presentations during the meeting. This year, we are excited to invite to the symposium approximately 15 Chinese professionals who also work on topics related to biosecurity and/or biosafety in academia, government, or laboratory settings. We will select 5 of the 15 confirmed Chinese attendees to present on their work at the symposium. Presentation guidelines can be found at the end of the proposed agenda for this meeting. During this symposium, attendees



will be exposed to many different policy ideas and information on the work of their peers. No scientific research will be conducted during this symposium.

You are also invited to attend two dinners during this week. The first dinner will take place on July 24th at the St. Regis Hotel and will include attendees from the ELBI Research Symposium. The second dinner will take place on the evening of July 25th at the St. Regis Hotel. This dinner is for Johns Hopkins and Tianjin University hosts, all speakers invited to the meeting on July 26th, and Chinese participants from the ELBI Research Symposium.

Finally, we invite you to attend the July 26th workshop *Biosafety and Biosecurity in the Era of Synthetic Biology: Realizing the Benefits and Addressing the Challenges*. The Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security is co-hosting this workshop with the Tianjin University Centre for Bio-safety Research & Strategy. The goal of this workshop is to consider the policy and science tools necessary to reduce biosafety and biosecurity risks, while not slowing progress in the exciting and broad field of synthetic biology. Speakers for this workshop will include leaders in scientific practice and policy development from both the United States and China. Although scientific research and advances will be discussed, this workshop will not include any scientific research. You are asked to attend in order to learn from these discussions and to engage in active Q&A sessions which will follow each presentation.

We are hopeful that you will attend these events from July 23 – 26 in Washington, DC. Our Johns Hopkins Center will be providing the conference facilities, the dinners, and other meals during the meeting times of the 3 events. You will be responsible for your travel and lodging costs. No fees will be paid to participants or speakers for attending. Please contact Ms. Andrea Lapp at alappi@jhu.edu to confirm your attendance.

Respectfully,

Tom Inglesby, MD, Director
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security

Anita Cicero, JD, Deputy Director
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security