

Ethics in Science

Ara Tahmassian, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President

Research Compliance, Boston University and Boston Medical Center

Gregory Viglianti, Ph.D.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Microbiology

Boston University School of Medicine

March 21, 2013 & March 28, 2013

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: L-804

RSVP: sleasman@bu.edu with full name and position/department

Recently, the publication of two manuscripts identifying genetic determinants that allow aerosol transmission of H5N1 influenza virus (bird flu) between mammals was delayed due to concerns regarding biosecurity and biosafety. The discussion surrounding the publication of these manuscripts has raised legal and ethical issues. The papers were subject to a review by a panel of experts convened by the World Health Organization in February who supported full publication of the papers and two reviews by the US National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) who finally approved the publication after its second meeting.

Amongst the concerns raised included the possibility that the results of the research could be used for nefarious purposes. The purpose of the workshop is to develop an understanding of the issues surrounding the two papers, such as:

- Should this type of research be conducted
- What is Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)
- Can such research be conducted safely
- How and who should have oversight of such research and how can that be managed
- Should the results be freely published
- Are there types of research that should not be conducted

GMS doctoral students and fellows are invited to participate in this 2-part workshop sponsored by Foundations in Biomedical Sciences. Please plan on attending both sessions. For more details, or to sign up, contact Caitlin Sleasman, sleasman@bu.edu. This workshop can accommodate 15 students only, so hurry and reserve your seat now!