



Online Ethics Center  
FOR ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

# A Survey of Attitudes and Actions on Dual Use Research in the Life Sciences

## Author(s)

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## Body

The same technologies that fuel scientific advances also pose potential risks--that the knowledge, tools, and techniques gained through legitimate biotechnology research could be misused to create biological weapons or for bioterrorism. Yet even research with the greatest potential for misuse may offer significant benefits. This book discusses a 2007 survey of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) members in the life sciences about their knowledge of dual use issues and attitudes about their responsibilities to help mitigate the risks of misuse of their research. Overall, the results suggest that there may be considerable support for approaches to oversight that rely on measures that are developed and implemented by the scientific community itself. The responses also suggest that there is a need to clarify the scope of research activities of concern and to provide guidance about what actions scientists can take to reduce the risk that their research will be misused by those with malicious intent.

[Read A Survey of Attitudes and Actions on Dual Use Research in the Life Sciences](#)

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