

Cc: Ksiazek, Thomas G.[tgksiaze@UTMB.EDU]
To: LeDuc, James W.[jwleduc@UTMB.EDU]
From: Dave Franz[davidfranz@gmail.com]
Sent: Wed 6/2/2021 10:50:03 AM (UTC-05:00)
Subject: Re: Arms controllers informal discussion

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I wrote Filippa Lentzos and Greg Koblentz, both pretty good friends—after that recent article Tom sent around---about my concern regarding the fact that most of these folks, and their governments, tend to think first about another layer of regulation and ignore human factors and organization health. I know that's the easy way out. I also mentioned the issue you raise about a focus on 4s, both because they tend to be taken more seriously by governments (possibly making them safer and more secure) than 2s or 3s and also that the 2s and 3s are generally more vulnerable than 4s. There are also so many 2s and 3s that it is almost impossible to deal with them; it's what happened with the legally binding protocol proposal to the BWC in the mid-90s. Interestingly, neither has responded after 48 hours, which is surprising because I've been talking with/helping both Filippa and Greg within the last couple of weeks. I'm reminded of a concluding message we put in one of the OpEds that we did together a few years ago about "scientists working with regulators" and governments "rewarding excellent leadership". It's apparently just hard for people who haven't been there to understand...and harder now than when the three of us were growing up to build leaders who take responsibility as seriously as one should for best result. Not very helpful, I know.... Dave

On Jun 2, 2021, at 11:20 AM, LeDuc, James W. <jwleduc@UTMB.EDU> wrote:

Thanks Dave

Clearly lots to consider here. The focus on BSL4 is justified but the bigger problem is likely at BSL3 where many more exist and standards are varied. Any suggestions on next steps?

Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 2, 2021, at 8:53 AM, Dave Franz <davidfranz@gmail.com> wrote:

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Tom and Jim, Suggest you not forward this to others for now...but FYI I'm concerned about lack of ID lab scientists in this discussion, much of it probably of value. I'm on a mailing list from Milton Litenberg with 40 or 50 others, mostly people who lean toward what I could call 'arms control'. They have started a CB Experts Group Zoom meeting series. These are the notes from one apparently held this past week. I was invited but didn't join. I worry about a greater push for more ill-directed regulation that only the 'good guys' will follow.

Dave

About ready to

Topic 2 – Biological Laboratories & Leaks (Continuing the discussion on framing a new view on biodefense, given the "gain of function" discussion we had last time, accidental release scenarios may be more significant than deliberate release incidents. However, this area seems to get little attention.)