

**Subject:** Talking about Gene Drive

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Dear colleagues,

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) is considering sponsoring a one day workshop on the topic of "Talking about Gene Drive" – to be held just before the annual American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) meeting on November 4, 2017, in Baltimore, MD. We are sending this preliminary email to gauge the level of interest in such a workshop.

We are reaching out with this email to a broad group of researchers and supporters of gene drive because we believe there is an important window of opportunity right now to think collectively about how to discuss this new technology productively with the public. How each individual project and program pursues its own communications strategy will impact public acceptance of the technology more generally, so this seems like a subject ripe for interaction and cooperation.

The intent of the workshop would be to:

- discuss how gene drive technology is being described in the media and at venues such as the Convention on Biological Diversity
- consider ways to work together to enhance communication and clarify public perception about gene drive technology
- share some basic communications skills that might come in handy in the future

A draft agenda is attached.

We are suggesting to hold this workshop in conjunction with the ASTMH meeting because many interested parties likely are already planning to attend that meeting (apologies to those who aren't!). Please let me know by reply email if you would be interested in participating and/or if you have colleagues who might like to attend. If there is sufficient enthusiasm, FNIH will start organizing the logistics and get back to you with more information.

Best regards,

Stephanie

**Stephanie James, PhD, FASTMH**

Director, Science Division

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— Attachments: —

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Draft agenda - Talking About Gene Drive.docx

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