

Subject: Invite to LEEDR Webinar on July 19

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Dear Safe Genes Community:

We have a special opportunity to hear from and discuss community engagement activities with a leader in the field, Delphine Thizy with Target Malaria (bio attached). Please mark your calendars for a webinar on July 19 at 10-11:00 am Eastern. More details on participation and a calendar invite will follow from Renee.

Participation is not mandatory but encouraged for the Safe Genes community. Please feel free to share with members of your Safe Genes team but not beyond at this time.

Background:

As the Safe Genes program is geared toward the development of new gene editing technologies that incorporate safety and control measures at their inception, we also want to encourage innovative engagement activities at all levels for technologies ranging from gene drives to cellular therapeutics. In the case of gene drives, open use of the tools is not supported during the lifetime of the program, but one can imagine that if successful, post-Safe Genes, an eventual field trial may result in the coming years. One of the discussion topics that has frequently come up is how can we engage communities effectively to understand their concerns and needs, while not assuming we WILL use a given technology, regardless of public opinion. Since gene drives impact the shared environment, many stakeholders will first need to weigh in, as you know.

The Target Malaria team is working in this area:

Target Malaria has been engaging for the last years to build acceptance for the technology in Africa and ensure co-development with stakeholders. The project has recognized that acceptance in Africa needs support outside of the continent as well. This involves two types of engagements: the activities needed to gain support for the day to day work of the project (incl. entomological collections) as well as the long-term acceptance for the future deployment of a gene drive technology - which are mutually supportive but not always the same. This engagement is done at the global level, at pan-African level as well as in country of operations at the national level and local level.

Agenda and details:

- * A brief description of the Target Malaria project in general,
- * Delphine's work and results (as able), and
- * Recommendations for best practices in community engagement

We are planning for approx. 30 min presentation, followed by 30 min of questions for those participating.

The audience will include DARPA, Safe Genes performers, and LEEDR panelists.

If you have suggestions for future events, please let Renee, Anne and I know. A regular LEEDR Leaders series of teleconferences or webinars on topics with guests related to Safe Genes research would be beneficial to all groups.

Best,

Lianne

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— Attachments: —

Delphine Thizy bio.docx

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