

**Subject:** Fwd: DARPA Safe Genes Press Release Guidance

**From:** John Godwin <godwin@ncsu.edu>

**Date:** 4/19/2017 10:08 PM

**To:** Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>, Karl Campbell <karl.campbell@islandconservation.org>, Heath Packard <heath.packard@islandconservation.org>, David Threadgill <dwthreadgill@tamu.edu>, Paul Thomas <paul.thomas@adelaide.edu.au>, "<Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au>" <Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au>, Alun Lloyd <alun\_lloyd@ncsu.edu>, Jason Delborne <jadelbor@ncsu.edu>, "Piaggio, Antoinette J - APHIS" <toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov>, "Shiels, Aaron B - APHIS" <Aaron.B.Shiels@aphis.usda.gov>, "Eisemann, John D - APHIS" <John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov>, Fred Gould <fred\_gould@ncsu.edu>, "Owain Edwards (owain.edwards@csiro.au)" <owain.edwards@csiro.au>, "peter.brown" <Peter.Brown@csiro.au>

Hi folks,

Just received this message from the Safe Genes program re announcements of the Safe Genes program and procedures they'd like to follow associated with that.

Rgds, John

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Wegrzyn, Renee** <[renee.wegrzyn@darpa.mil](mailto:renee.wegrzyn@darpa.mil)>

**Date:** Wed, Apr 19, 2017 at 10:01 PM

**Subject:** DARPA Safe Genes Press Release Guidance

**To:** "Wegrzyn, Renee" <[renee.wegrzyn@darpa.mil](mailto:renee.wegrzyn@darpa.mil)>

**Cc:** "Weiss, Richard" <[richard.weiss@darpa.mil](mailto:richard.weiss@darpa.mil)>, "Kilbride, Timothy (contr-diro)" <[Timothy.kilbride.ctr@darpa.mil](mailto:Timothy.kilbride.ctr@darpa.mil)>, "Cheever, Anne (contr-bto)" <[anne.cheever.ctr@darpa.mil](mailto:anne.cheever.ctr@darpa.mil)>, "Parr, Lianne (contr-bto)" <[lianne.parr.ctr@darpa.mil](mailto:lianne.parr.ctr@darpa.mil)>, "Godlewski, April (contr-bto)" <[april.godlewski.ctr@darpa.mil](mailto:april.godlewski.ctr@darpa.mil)>

Dear Safe Genes Teams,

A few teams have asked about the audience for the kickoff meeting, protection of intellectual property, and public announcements regarding the program launch. We will address those questions here.

Our goal is to promote collaboration and data sharing (as contractually required of the teams) among the broad Safe Genes community of stakeholders as a means of sparking new ideas and connections. For this reason, the audience for the kickoff meeting will include not only Safe Genes performers, but also DARPA-funded small businesses and DARPA Young Faculty Awardees, along with performers from other relevant DARPA programs. DARPA personnel supporting the meeting and program are already under non-disclosure agreements (NDA) that cover all of their work with the Agency. Any other non-government personnel or government contractors (such as members of the LEEDR panel) will

sign NDAs prior to the kickoff meeting. DARPA will not ask Safe Genes teams to sign NDAs however, as we find they stifle openness and collaboration.

Please consider all data that you present at the kickoff appropriate for a public forum. If there is specific proprietary information you plan to share, please save it for discussion during individual sidebar sessions with DARPA staff.

Because not all performers will be under contract by the time of the meeting, DARPA will not be publicizing the kickoff meeting, and we ask you to refrain from announcing your attendance as well, including on social media. Once all of the contracts have been signed (we anticipate mid-June), we will work with you to make a formal, coordinated announcement of the program launch.

DARPA's announcement of the Safe Genes launch will include a high-level overview of the program objectives and of the proposed paths forward for each of the prime performers. Because the Agency does not have a direct relationship with sub-contractors, our announcement will not mention subs by name. However, we encourage each team to make its own announcement that includes whatever details of work breakdown you are comfortable sharing.

Once we have a better idea of the final contract ratification date, we will share the draft DARPA announcement with you. We encourage you to also share your news release with us in advance to coordinate messaging.

Prior to the announcement, we will provide the DARPA release and contact information for each team to a select group of reporters on an embargoed basis. We will also share the list of reporters with you so that you can send them any outreach materials from your institutions. During the embargo window, reporters may contact you for additional information, and we encourage you to engage, but please limit your comments to your team's research. For broader questions about the program or DARPA's interest in this field, please refer the questions back to DARPA Public Affairs ([outreach@darpa.mil](mailto:outreach@darpa.mil)).

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the success of the Safe Genes launch. We are excited to get underway, and by coordinating we can generate the biggest splash for everyone involved and improve the chances that the work will be covered in an appropriate context.

Best regards,

Renee

Renee D Wegrzyn, PhD  
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DARPA Biological Technologies Office  
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