

**Subject:** Re: EMBARGO COPY - DARPA Safe Genes press release  
**From:** John Godwin <godwin@ncsu.edu>  
**Date:** 7/18/2017 3:04 PM  
**To:** Patti Mulligan <patti\_mulligan@ncsu.edu>  
**CC:** Fred Gould <fred\_gould@ncsu.edu>, Royden Saah <royden.saah@islandconservation.org>

Hi Patti,

Getting back in more detail here on your earlier email.

On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 2:27 PM, Patti Mulligan <[patti\\_mulligan@ncsu.edu](mailto:patti_mulligan@ncsu.edu)> wrote:

John and Fred,

I'm working on drafting our own press release re the DARPA grant. Can you send me some bullet points of what you'd like me to focus on?

in particular:

- How will the DARPA grant impact the work already being done at NC State?

This support will advance and extend efforts we already have going examining potential genetic biocontrol approaches to the problem on invasive mice on islands specifically and modeling of gene drive function more generally.

| - Describing the significance of our collaboration with Island Conservation

This collaboration brings together basic research capabilities for developing this approach from NCSU (and also Texas A&M and the University of Adelaide) with extensive experience in island biodiversity conservation from Island Conservation.

| - Long-term, where could our work lead, with regards to both conservation and public health (or other applications)?

Our goal is to develop a safe, effective, and well-controlled technology that can be used to humanely reduce and eliminate populations of invasive rodents on islands and that would represent a significant advance over currently-available methods. As islands are hotspots for biodiversity and also disproportionately represented in terms of threatened and endangered species. We are primarily looking at this from perspective at this point, although rodents certainly can also present health risks by acting as reservoirs and vectors of disease as well as a threat to food security due to pre- and post-harvest losses.

| - What are the most important things you want people to know about this project?

1. That we are pursuing this because invasive rodents present critical threats to biodiversity generally and threatened and endangered species specifically on islands. We are considering a genetic approach because while current tools have generated enormous benefits in terms of biodiversity conservation, we are also beginning to 'run up against' the limits of available technical approaches

and new approaches are needed.

2. We are committed to pursuing the goals in a responsible, open, and carefully-staged and stepwise manner seeking input from both regulatory agencies and key stakeholders at each stage.
3. A KEY message: No field releases or field tests of any kind will be part of the project funded by the DARPA Safe Genes program. All testing is planned for highly biosecure and contained simulated natural environments.

In addition, if you have any quotes you'd like to contribute, please include. If you're stuck on what kind of quote to provide, we can chat and come up with something together.

Thanks!

Might be best to chat, although will think more about it.

Thanks, John

**Patti Mulligan**

Communications Director  
Genetic Engineering and Society (GES) Center  
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On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 9:19 AM, Patti Mulligan <[patti\\_mulligan@ncsu.edu](mailto:patti_mulligan@ncsu.edu)> wrote:

Sorry, must've hit send. Hold for the rest of my email :)

**Patti Mulligan**

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On Tue, Jul 18, 2017 at 4:50 AM, Royden Saah <[royden.saah@islandconservation.org](mailto:royden.saah@islandconservation.org)> wrote:

Hi Sally and Patti,

If you want any support, please let me know. I can schedule time as necessary!

Cheers

rs

**From:** John Godwin [mailto:[godwin@ncsu.edu](mailto:godwin@ncsu.edu)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 5:32 PM

**To:** Heath Packard <[heath.packard@islandconservation.org](mailto:heath.packard@islandconservation.org)>; Nate DeGraff <[njdegraf@ncsu.edu](mailto:njdegraf@ncsu.edu)>; Patti Mulligan <[patti\\_mulligan@ncsu.edu](mailto:patti_mulligan@ncsu.edu)>; Royden Saah <[royden.saah@islandconservation.org](mailto:royden.saah@islandconservation.org)>; Karl Campbell <[karl.campbell@islandconservation.org](mailto:karl.campbell@islandconservation.org)>; Sally Esposito <[sally.esposito@islandconservation.org](mailto:sally.esposito@islandconservation.org)>; Paul Thomas <[paul.thomas@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:paul.thomas@adelaide.edu.au)>; David Threadgill <[dwthreadgill@tamu.edu](mailto:dwthreadgill@tamu.edu)>; <[Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au](mailto:Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au)> <[Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au](mailto:Keith.Hayes@data61.csiro.au)>; Owain Edwards (<[owain.edwards@csiro.au](mailto:owain.edwards@csiro.au)> <[owain.edwards@csiro.au](mailto:owain.edwards@csiro.au)>; peter.brown <[Peter.Brown@csiro.au](mailto:Peter.Brown@csiro.au)>; Phill Cassey <[phill.cassey@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:phill.cassey@adelaide.edu.au)>; Gregg Howald <[gregg.howald@islandconservation.org](mailto:gregg.howald@islandconservation.org)>; Piaggio, Antoinette J - APHIS <[toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:toni.j.piaggio@aphis.usda.gov)>; Eisemann, John D - APHIS <[John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov)>; Shiels, Aaron B - APHIS <[Aaron.B.Shiels@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Aaron.B.Shiels@aphis.usda.gov)>; Jason

Delborne <[jadelbor@ncsu.edu](mailto:jadelbor@ncsu.edu)>

Cc: Fred Gould <[fred\\_gould@ncsu.edu](mailto:fred_gould@ncsu.edu)>; Jennifer Kuzma <[jkuzma@ncsu.edu](mailto:jkuzma@ncsu.edu)>

Subject: Fwd: EMBARGO COPY - DARPA Safe Genes press release

Hi All,

Please see the announcement tomorrow from Renee Wegrzyn about the DARPA Safe Genes program announcement set for tomorrow at 2 PM EST and embargoed before that time. Please also note that Renee requests that we also send any press releases to DARPA at [Outreach@darpa.mil](mailto:Outreach@darpa.mil).

They included several, but not all, of the suggestions that folks provided last week and decided to address LEEDR issues in a separate paragraph, but I think it looks good overall and hope you folks do too.

I am traveling today and tomorrow, but will try to check in frequently (including over the Atlantic probably) if there are questions or draft press releases from our group.

Thanks, John

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

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

Date: Mon, Jul 17, 2017 at 10:13 PM

Subject: EMBARGO COPY - DARPA Safe Genes press release

To: "Joung, J. Keith" <[JJOUNG@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:JJOUNG@mgh.harvard.edu)>, "[doudna@berkeley.edu](mailto:doudna@berkeley.edu)" <[doudna@berkeley.edu](mailto:doudna@berkeley.edu)>, "[rlsanders@berkeley.edu](mailto:rlsanders@berkeley.edu)" <[rlsanders@berkeley.edu](mailto:rlsanders@berkeley.edu)>, HMS-church\_lab\_admin <[church\\_lab\\_admin@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:church_lab_admin@hms.harvard.edu)>, george church <[gc@harvard.edu](mailto:gc@harvard.edu)>, "[gchurch@genetics.med.harvard.edu](mailto:gchurch@genetics.med.harvard.edu)" <[gchurch@genetics.med.harvard.edu](mailto:gchurch@genetics.med.harvard.edu)>, John Godwin <[godwin@ncsu.edu](mailto:godwin@ncsu.edu)>, Omar S Akbari <[omar.akbari@ucr.edu](mailto:omar.akbari@ucr.edu)>, Amit Choudhary <[achoud@broadinstitute.org](mailto:achoud@broadinstitute.org)>, "[lmcguire@broadinstitute.org](mailto:lmcguire@broadinstitute.org)" <[lmcguire@broadinstitute.org](mailto:lmcguire@broadinstitute.org)>, Kevin Esvelt <[esvelt@media.mit.edu](mailto:esvelt@media.mit.edu)>, "Melanie R.Leavitt Cantarutti" <[melaniecantarutti@berkeley.edu](mailto:melaniecantarutti@berkeley.edu)>, "Pesheva, Ekaterina D" <[Ekaterina\\_Pesheva@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Ekaterina_Pesheva@hms.harvard.edu)>, "[Kevin\\_Jiang@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Kevin_Jiang@hms.harvard.edu)" <[Kevin\\_Jiang@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Kevin_Jiang@hms.harvard.edu)>, "Berlin, Barbara Elizabeth" <[Barbara\\_Berlin@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Barbara_Berlin@hms.harvard.edu)>

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Dear Safe Genes Teams,

Thank you for all your timely responses to the request for comments on your project summaries for the DARPA Safe Genes Press Release. In preparation for the public announcement of Safe Genes, attached is the embargoed copy of the press release that DARPA plans to release at 2 pm EST on Wednesday, July 19, 2017. \*That date and time will be confirmed tomorrow.\*

If you plan to send out a press release to coincide with that announcement, please remember to send it to DARPA as a courtesy. If you share this copy with your subcontractors, please be sure to have them also abide by the embargo, and DARPA recommends that the subcontractors share their own press releases with the prime for comment (also feel free to share with DARPA as a courtesy as well).

Please also remember to limit your own discussion of the program to your specific project and technologies. You may refer any inquiry about DARPA specifically to [Outreach@darpa.mil](mailto:Outreach@darpa.mil).

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and looking forward to the announcements!

Best regards,  
Renee

Renee D. Wegrzyn, PhD  
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