

# PASCC

## Research in Progress

FY18

### **AN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON NORMS AND PRACTICES FOR THE USE OF GENE EDITING**

Performer: National Academy of Sciences  
Project Lead: Benjamin Rusek  
FY18

#### **ABSTRACT:**

The objective of this activity is to convene an international workshop to better understand the potential threats that could occur five to ten years in the future from the use of gene editing technology like CRISPR and successor technologies in light of the ease and accessibility of the techniques, and to identify and develop areas of possible consensus on norms and practices to govern the use of this technology in research with especially dangerous pathogens.

Building on past work to develop guidance for gain-of-function research and to find common ground on applications of gene-editing technology, the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) will seek to identify and develop areas of possible consensus on norms and practices to govern the use of gene editing technology in research on especially dangerous pathogens. To work toward this goal, the Academies will plan and convene an international workshop where participants will work to develop common understandings about the norms and practices for biosafety and biosecurity that should govern the use of gene editing technology in research on especially dangerous pathogens and on pathogens with pandemic potential. NASEM will appoint a steering committee of approximately 6 experts to plan the international workshop. The committee will hold two planning meetings and then conduct the workshop in either Vietnam or China. NASEM will utilize contacts through the IAP Biosecurity Working Group and other key Academies of Sciences and organizations, and the bilateral relationships that NASEM has in Asia (especially China) and elsewhere to engage and identify key scientists during the workshop planning period. The product will be a summary report or statement that can provide the basis for future activities and action.

*Research in Progress* describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact [INSS@usafa.edu](mailto:INSS@usafa.edu).