



The Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) is run at the Center on Contemporary Studies (CCC) and sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). PASCC awards and supports strategic studies and dialogues that anticipate and try to reduce the threat of WMD capabilities.



The CCC has a respected track record for providing research and timely analysis on a variety of topics to leading decision makers in the U.S. national security community. Located in the Naval Postgraduate School, the CCC is the research wing of the Department of National Security Affairs.

Research in Progress describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information, please contact pascc@nps.edu.

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Assessing the Implications of Advances in Science and Technology for the Biological Weapons Convention

Performer: National Academy of Sciences

Project Lead: Katherine Bowman

Project Cost: \$159,000

FY15-16

Objective:

In recent years, there have been rapid advances in life sciences that promise significant contributions to health, food, and energy policy outcomes. Yet, there are concerns that the science and technology (S&T) that enables these benefits may also be used to develop new bioweapons or facilitate bioterrorism. These advances present fundamental challenges to national and international institutions focused on preventing the misuse of S&T. This project assesses new developments in S&T and their potential biosecurity implications. Through collaboration among several scientific organizations, the project will reach a broad audience of international security and S&T professionals in advance of the Eighth Review of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 2016 in Geneva.

Approach:

For this project, the Board on Life Sciences of the National Research Council will build on past activities involving cooperation with international partners and provide input on advances in S&T to the Eighth Review of the BWC in 2016. Project members will draw on information and assessments from 2012–2015 BWC intercessional periods.