

Terms of Reference

GeneConvene Global Collaborative Advisory Board



GeneConvene Global Collaborative

Mission: The GeneConvene Global Collaborative (GeneConvene) aims to enable an environment that allows gene drive and other genetic biocontrol technologies for control of malaria and other public health uses to be safely and ethically tested, and, if warranted, implemented. GeneConvene supports coordination among stakeholders that enables the development and dissemination of scientifically rigorous information, consensus best practices guidance and standards, and administrative, regulatory and technical advice and training that will advance responsible research and development of these technologies for preventing transmission of vector borne diseases, with an initial focus on malaria.

Strategic Objectives: Six strategic objectives will guide the work.

- Track plans and progress of relevant public health projects to facilitate interaction and coordination
- Anticipate emerging issues and convene experts to develop consensus recommendations/guidance that will contribute to responsible practices
- Deliver educational and capacity strengthening activities to prepare for informed decision-making on gene drive technologies
- Promote coordination, information sharing, and planning among scientists and funders of gene drive research across the range of proposed applications
- Create and maintain a central resource for access to accurate and timely technical, policy and regulatory information
- Provide advice and services that underpin the responsible development of gene drive products

Core Values: To achieve the desired impact, GeneConvene will adhere to a set of core values in planning and executing its mission.

- Public good- Deemed trustworthy in all plans and actions, and with all stakeholders; serving the public interest; information and output shared broadly as a public resource
- Proactivity- Forward-looking to pave the way as technology advances; prepared for risks to avoid or respond to crises
- Transparency- Openness in plans, actions, decision making, and data

- Neutrality- Independent of vested interests; not advocating on behalf of any stakeholder or product
- Scientific rigor- Supportive of a rigorous scientific process for gene drive development; credible source of evidence-based information on the science for all stakeholders
- Consensus building- Seeks effective partners, supporters, and stakeholders; inclusive incorporation of voices from diverse stakeholders to reach consensus

Governance: The GeneConvene Global Collaborative is a program of the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), a U.S. not-for-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization created to advance biomedical discoveries leading to improved health outcomes

(<https://fnih.org/about>). The business and affairs of FNIH are managed by a Board of Directors (<https://fnih.org/about/directors>). The FNIH President is an officer of the FNIH Board of Directors.

GeneConvene is governed by the FNIH Board of Directors, with a multidisciplinary expert Advisory Board informing decisions, and a management team leading the planning, day-to-day activities, and partner interactions.

GeneConvene Advisory Board

Purpose: The GeneConvene Advisory Board is expected to provide objective counsel on the challenges of developing, testing and implementing new genetic biocontrol technologies, which will contribute to the ability of GeneConvene to achieve its objectives and adhere to its values.

Responsibilities: The GeneConvene Advisory Board will advise the management team on scientific, technical, ethical, communications and other issues relevant to its operations. The roles of Advisory Board members include but are not limited to:

- Augment the range and depth of expertise of the management team
- Advise on strategic issues
- Provide guidance on key decisions
- Liaise with external stakeholders to network the GeneConvene management team to others and to communicate value of the GeneConvene Global Collaborative

One Advisory Board member will serve as a liaison to the FNIH President and Board of Directors, and will provide updates on GeneConvene activities and identify for the FNIH leadership any policy or administrative matters that require attention.

Membership: Members of the Advisory Board will serve in their individual capacity for a term of two years, with the possibility of renewal if this is of mutual interest. The Board will encompass a diverse representation of expertise, geography, organizational affiliation, and gender. The composition of the Advisory Board is expected to evolve as the scope and focus of

GeneConvene evolves. Members will not be actively engaged in research or development of genetic biocontrol technologies for public health or other applications, and must be willing to sign confidentiality and conflict of interest agreements. Proposed members will be approved by the FNIH President.

Meetings: The Advisory Board will convene twice yearly. One annual one-to-two day in-person meeting will take place, typically in the Washington, DC area. A second annual meeting will be held by video or teleconference. Expenses associated with meeting participation will be supported by GeneConvene according to established FNIH policies.

Logistics for meetings will be organized and managed by the GeneConvene staff. Agendas will be developed by GeneConvene management staff with input from Advisory Board members. The agenda will include discussion of GeneConvene activities and other topics relevant to the GeneConvene mission.