

Summary

GeneConvene Advisory Board Meeting

May 11-12, 2020



Board Members Present: Christian Borgemeister, Abdallah Daar, Yacine Djibo, Ann Kingiri, Bernard Nahlen, Nick Oguge, Elias Zerhouni

GeneConvene Staff Present: Stephanie James, Mike Santos, Susan Wiener, David O'Brochta, Brinda Dass, Karen Tountas, Renata Hoffstetter, Willy Tonui, Hector Quemada

This was the initial meeting of the GeneConvene Advisory Board. Due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held remotely. Background information describing the goals and work plan for GeneConvene were provided to Board members in advance of the meeting.

The meeting began with a brief presentation on the goals and near-term plans of the GeneConvene Global Collaborative. The floor then was opened for questions and comments from Board members. Discussions ranged from technical aspects and proposed uses of genetic biocontrol technologies to considerations for stakeholder engagement and capacity strengthening in regions where they may be tested and implemented. Members emphasized the importance of developing a strong communications plan. Ethics also was highlighted as a critical issue for these emerging technologies. These were noted as potential topics for more detailed discussion at future meetings of the Advisory Board.

A number of follow-up activities were identified. These included creation of an Advisory Board charter, identification of additional ways to facilitate interaction among Board members, and requests for GeneConvene staff to provide additional informational materials for use by Board members.

Given the limited time for interaction within the online meeting format, it was agreed that GeneConvene staff would reach out to Advisory Board members to schedule individual calls, to discuss their involvement and provide any additional information they request.

GeneConvene staff will work with Board members to schedule the next Advisory Board meeting for the fall.