

Late-breaking News: The H5N1 research moratorium suspended

A conversation with **Roger Brent** about the decision to resume transmissibility research and the DHHS Framework for regulating research with highly pathogenic viruses, and about the scientific and governmental contexts for these developments.

Friday, 15 February, 9:30-11:20 am
Denny 211

The voluntary moratorium on experimentation with the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has now ended – just in the last few weeks – and researchers are set to resume the controversial research program that created a strain of H5N1 that is transmissible among mammals.

Roger Brent, Director of the FHCRC Center for Biological Futures, has been directly involved in policy debates about how such research should be regulated. He will discuss a comment that he and David Relman (Stanford University) recently published on this decision and on the framework established by the US Department of Health and Human Services for guiding funding decisions in cases like this.

This session is convened as part of the micro-seminar on “Influenza Pandemics in Perspective,” and is **open to the university community**. For background on the H5N1 debate, including the Brent/Relman comment, see the micro-seminar website:

http://depts.washington.edu/ssnet/biological_futures/JSIS%20586A.html.

Roger Brent, Basic Sciences, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Dr. Brent's highly interdisciplinary studies use single cells as model systems and focus on how cell signaling pathways represent and transmit information. This work may have particular relevance to cancer, since abnormal signaling plays a role in cancer development. His research draws on molecular biological methods, genetics and computational biology, and has led to the development of a number of innovative technologies for understanding quantitative cell behavior that have utility for addressing wider biological problems.

Before joining the Hutchinson Center faculty in 2010, Dr. Brent was director and research director of the Molecular Sciences Institute in Berkeley, California. In addition to his academic work, Brent has been a longtime adviser to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. He is the inventor of 12 issued patents and several pending patents. He also advises various U.S. federal agencies—including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—on functional genomics and computational biology. In 2003 he received the Gabbay Award in Biotechnology and Medicine for his work on protein interactions, and in 2011, he was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for “outstanding contributions in the area of biochemistry, transcription, genomics, and systems biology.”

For more information on the Biological Futures in a Globalized World initiative, please visit
<http://tiny.cc/biological-futures>