

Press Release

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***Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology:
Is the Precautionary Principle Needed?***

WASHINGTON – In March 2012, Friends of the Earth, the International Center for Technology Assessment, and ETC Group released a report on “The Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology.”

The report has been endorsed by 113 NGOs from around the world and urges government officials to observe the precautionary principle in regulating synthetic biology to ensure worker and environmental protection, including implementing a moratorium on the release and commercial use of the technology. The report makes additional recommendations regarding the development of synthetic biology-specific regulations, guaranteeing the public’s “right to know,” and requiring corporate accountability and manufacturer liability.

Join us at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on April 18, 2012 to discuss this new report with the report authors, as well as representatives from the legal and scientific communities.

Click [[here](#)] to read to download a copy of the report.

You must register to attend the event.

Visit [<http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/rsvp?eid=23244&pid=116>] to RSVP.

What: Principles for the Oversight of Synthetic Biology: Is the Precautionary Principle Needed?

When: April 18, 2012 from noon-2:00 pm
(Light lunch available at noon)

Who: Eric Hoffman, Friends of the Earth
Jaydee Hanson, International Center for Technology Assessment
Dr. Drew Endy, Department of Bioengineering, Stanford University
Mark Greenwood, Partner, Ropes & Gray (Former director of EPA’s Office of Pollution Prevention & Toxics)

The panel will be moderated by David Rejeski, director of the Science and Technology Innovation Program at the Wilson Center.

Where: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
5th Floor Conference Room
Ronald Reagan Building at 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20004
For directions, visit: <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/directions>

To learn more about the Synthetic Biology Project, visit: <http://www.synbioproject.org>

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