

## **Dr. George Atkinson**

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**and**

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**International Risk Governance Council**

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## **More effectively ensure that domestic and international policies are derived from credible S&T understanding**

- 1. Many highly credible reports are routinely prepared by experts in academies, private organizations, and foundations on a myriad of S&T topics critical to formulating and implementing effective public policies.**
- 2. While the advice is often germane to policy decisions, there are few forums where the authors are critically questioned and debated by policy makers as well as by international subject matter experts.**
- 3. Consequently, few of these reports are read by policy makers and fewer are seriously considered.**

Resolution of major 21<sup>st</sup> century policy issues increasingly depends on obtaining an accurate understanding of **scientifically- and technologically-credible options**.

Bridging the significant gap separating the global scientific and policy communities requires **new approaches** identifying credible options for **integration into governmental and societal policies**.

Obtaining the **international perspectives** of these policies is essential.

**Critical debates** of the scientific options need to be led by an international cross-section of policy makers who use the expertise of articulate, subject-matter experts selected globally.



1. Extensive interviews with subject matter experts worldwide are focused **on current realities** and **specific recommendations for actionable next steps** to government, the private sector, societal organizations, and foundations.
2. Results used in a **multi-year roadmap comprised of a series of invitation-only conferences**, each on an aspect (e.g., prevention) of the S&T topic (e.g., infectious diseases).
3. Eight S&T experts are invited to prepare **concise (3 page) policy position papers to be debated** at each conference.
4. Participating governments and organizations are consulted to **invite an international group (~50) policy makers and subject matter experts to lead the debates.**

1. ISGP conferences are convened under the **Chatham House Rule (no attribution)**.
2. Each policy position paper is **debated for 90 min. of which 5 min. is reserved for the author to summarize the central points of their paper.**
3. ISGP staff prepares **not-for-attribution debate summaries.**
4. **Caucuses** are held for **all participants to identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps.**
5. ISGP publishes a **publicly available book** containing this material from each conference.



# Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases (EPID)

- **Global Perspectives Conference** held December 6-9, 2009 in Tucson, Arizona (EPID, Food Safety and Security, Cyber Security, & Energy)
- **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases: Focus on Surveillance** held October 17-20, 2010 in Airlie, VA
- **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases: Focus on Prevention** held June 5-8, in San Diego, CA
- **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases: Focus on Mitigation**, October 23-26 in Edinburgh, Scotland
- **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases: Focus on Socio-Economic Context**, scheduled for June 2012



# ISCP Programs: Science Policy Laboratories

## – **Desired outcomes for policy makers**

- obtain a new and/or strengthened understanding of key, credible S&T issues related to specific policy responsibilities.
- have access to candid, international perspectives on the significance of S&T issues and the potential consequences of policy decisions on the global community.

## – **Desired outcomes for scientists and students**

- obtain a clearer, realistic view of the issues that drive policy communities to make decisions and commit resources.
- early in their careers, encounter how scientific understanding can, and cannot, effectively influence policy decisions.

- 1. ISGP conferences are designed to provide new and unusual (perhaps unique) environments that facilitate candid debates of the credible S&T options vital to addressing many of the most significant challenges facing 21<sup>st</sup> century societies.**
- 2. ISGP seeks to improve the communication of ideas and recommendations, many are found in the reports developed by other organizations and institutes, to the policy communities responsible for serving their constituents (ISGP relies on the authoritative reports prepared by others)**



3. The ISGP has itself **no opinions nor does it advocate** recommendations emerging from its conferences.
4. The **responsibility to integrate** the results of these debates and caucuses remains with **those in decision making positions in their respective governments, private sector, and societal organizations.**
5. The ISGP is available **to brief on the results of these conferences,** when invited to do so.

**“An ongoing series of dialogues and critical debates examining the role of science and technology in advancing domestic and international public policy decisions.”**