

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases (EPID): Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance March 19–22, 2013 Houston, Texas**

The topic of **Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases (EPID)** has been identified by participating governments and the private sector as a major priority for the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP). **Food Safety, Security, and Defense (FSSD)** and **Synthetic Biology (SB)**, as they relate to EPID, were also identified as priorities. Aspects of these topics will be addressed at the next **invitation-only** ISGP conference, **EPID: Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance**, to be convened March 19–22, 2013, at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

All ISGP conferences are conducted in a “not-for-attribution” environment (Chatham House Rule). This conference is part of the ongoing series of ISGP conferences devoted to linking scientifically credible understanding to the formulation and implementation of sound, effective domestic and international policies. Earlier ISGP conferences convened in Tucson, Arizona (December, 2009), Warrenton, Virginia (October, 2010), La Jolla, California (June, 2011), Edinburgh, Scotland (October, 2011), and Fairfax, Virginia (July, 2012) were part of this series on EPID, and the related aspects of FSS and SB.

#### **EPID: Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance**

The program begins with caucus meetings, reception, and dinner. The majority of the conference focuses on discussions and critical debates of the eight concise, policy position papers prepared and presented by internationally recognized scientists invited by the ISGP. Through both their papers and contributions to the debates, these presenters provide their views of the current realities, the scientific opportunities and challenges, and the pertinent policy issues associated with addressing EPID and its related topics.

The unusual, if not unique, ISGP format emphasizes critical discussions and debates between the invited scientists and an international audience selected primarily by the participating countries in North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Each ISGP conference relies on international expertise of all the participants and on their global perspectives. ISGP programs are designed to clarify scientific and technical understanding among the nonspecialists who are often charged with both domestic and international policy decisions. These policy leaders routinely lead the conference debates. This format also provides an opportunity for the scientific community to experience the challenging tasks of formulating and implementing effective policies involving scientific and technological issues.

Small-group caucuses are held on the third evening, followed by a plenary caucus the following morning involving all participants. These caucuses are designed to identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps to be considered by governmental and societal leaders. The conference concludes after lunch on the same day as the plenary session. “Not-for-attribution” summaries of all debates are prepared by the ISGP staff and published with the policy-oriented papers in a publicly available book shortly after each conference.

To learn more about the **EPID: Focus on Antimicrobial Resistance** conference and for more information about how invitations to the conference are being extended, contact Dr. Melanie Brickman Stynes at (520) 334-9051 ([mbstynes@scienceforglobalpolicy.org](mailto:mbstynes@scienceforglobalpolicy.org)), or Ms. Jennifer Boice at (520) 343-8181 ([jboice@scienceforglobalpolicy.org](mailto:jboice@scienceforglobalpolicy.org)), or visit [www.scienceforglobalpolicy.org](http://www.scienceforglobalpolicy.org).