



HEALTH
SECURITY
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Safeguarding Biosecurity and Cyberbiosecurity in Toxin and Venom Research Laboratories

Location: Singapore

Venue: TBD

Dates: 24-26 May 2023

Health Security Partners (HSP), the Malaysian Society of Toxicology (MySOT), and Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) are hosting a 3-day in-person workshop in Singapore to bring together researchers from Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore conducting work with toxins and animal venoms. Research in the field of toxins and animal venoms holds great promise to develop the next generation of therapeutics to treat disease and improve global health. However, the materials, data and expertise could also be misused by others posing threats to public health and national security. During the workshop, researchers will work alongside biorisk management professionals who will provide training on biosafety, biosecurity, and cyberbiosecurity and discuss best practices to safeguard materials, data, and expertise within research laboratories. A diverse group of participants conducting research with toxins and animal venoms will be invited from toxicology, pharmacology, biochemistry, molecular medicine, and marine research laboratories. A total of 28 participants will be invited to attend the workshop, including 11 from Malaysia, 9 from Thailand and 8 from Singapore. Workshop materials will focus on region-specific research topics, and participants will also have the opportunity to showcase their research and network with colleagues.

All costs associated with travel to Singapore and participation in the workshop will be fully paid by HSP.

Training Topics:

- o Dual use nature of toxin research, including materials, technologies, data, and expertise
- o Physical and personnel biosecurity methods to protect laboratories
- o Best practices in cybersecurity to protect data from increasing cyberattacks
- o Know-Your-Collaborator tools to screen collaborators or funders looking to conduct joint research, share strains and data, or requests to present findings at a conference.

At the end of the workshop, researchers will have:

- Increased knowledge on biosafety and biosecurity and best practices to safeguard research laboratories handling toxins and animal venoms.

- Improved physical and personnel biosecurity methods within laboratories and respective institutions, to identify and mitigate outsider and insider threats.
- Implement best practices to strengthen cybersecurity
- Regional networks for research collaboration and to improve national biosafety and biosecurity capacities.

Following the workshop, participants will be able to apply for a ~\$5,000 grant each to implement lessons learned.

Participants are requested to register for the workshop using the link: <https://forms.gle/cFcn84bKpNU2ZpsG6>