

International Programs seminar

May 4, Noon, Mara Conference Center

Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins (U.S. Department of State) “Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism – efforts to reduce the threat”



Appointed by President Obama to serve as coordinator of threat reduction programs, Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins is a leader of the Global Health Security Agenda. This is a large international multi-sectoral initiative which aims to prevent infectious disease agents being used as WMD, whilst reducing the consequences of natural disease outbreaks and laboratory accidents. Ambassador Jenkins also coordinates international and national programs in chemical, nuclear and radiological security. Jenkins also chaired the G8 Global Partnership against Weapons of Mass Destruction (GP) and is US representative to the GP.

Owing to their severe impacts on human and animal health, agriculture, food security, and economies, combined with their ready availability, animal pathogens have potential to be used as WMD. Most bioweapons have been developed using animal pathogens or zoonotic agents.