

# 2026 Harvard Yale Biosafety Symposium

Hybrid Event Occurring May 4–5, 2026

*\*Yale West Campus Conference Center & Zoom\**

## Symposium Overview

Pre-symposium courses on May 4, 2026 will offer opportunities to gain further understanding of Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC), Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (PEPP), personnel reliability, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) risks in biosafety and biosecurity.

The symposium on May 5, 2026 will offer talks once again on prominent issues facing Biological Safety and EHS professionals. Presentations will cover AI, risks of Mirror Life cells, dangerous gain of function (GOF) pathogens and pending or updated regulations, and guidance for management of everyday bio-risk outside of existing regulatory boundaries. Another interactive session will present, review, and discuss mock high-risk protocols in the format of an Institutional Review Entity (IRE) meeting to help attendees address updated or new DURC and PEPP rules.

## Keynote Speaker

**Professor Akiko Iwasaki**, Director of the Center for Infection and Immunity at the Yale School of Medicine, will discuss the role of her center to gain insight into the strategies pathogens use and to deepen the understanding of how the immune system responds to protect the host. Her presentation will focus on the pathobiology of long COVID and other post-acute infections related to autoimmunity, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and age-related diseases.

## Learning Objectives

- Gain awareness of AI in biosafety and biosecurity and learn how just about every beneficial AI advancement in science could present biosafety and biosecurity risks.
- Examine the risks and possible benefits of Mirror Life cell research and learn why many believe this is the greatest new risk facing science today.
- Gain hands-on experience in the review of protocols involving dangerous GOF research.
- Experience IRE discussions where there are significant risk-benefit discussions related to the proposed research and potential risks.
- Gain an understanding of how to comply with the revised or new DURC / PEPP / GOF regulations anticipated in 2025.
- Networking opportunities will be provided both during and after the event.

## Contact Us

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***\*Links to full agenda and registration options coming soon\****