

## CIA director warns gene editing may threaten national security

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

Advances in genome editing pose a threat to national security and may be used to create biological weapons, Central Intelligence Agency Director John Brennan said at the Council on Foreign Relations on June 29.

“Nowhere are the stakes higher for our national security than in the field of biotechnology,” Brennan stated. “Recent advances in genome editing that offer great potential for breakthroughs in public health are also a cause for concern because the same methods can be used to create genetically engineered biological warfare agents.”

In April 2016, the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Health Affairs Acting Director Aaron Firoved testified in Congress that synthetic biology and gene editing offer terrorist organizations potential to modify organisms for malicious purposes such as manmade pathogens that can rapidly cause disease outbreaks.

Brennan called on the international community to create national and global strategies to counter such threats, along with the consensus of laws, standards and authorities that needed to counter the threat.

**Read full, original post:** [CIA Chief: Genome-Editing May Be Used for Biological Warfare](#)