Preface

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Biographical note: Since 2003, Ms Kessler has been the Director of the Pacific Northwest Center for Global Security at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The Center conducts a broad range of international security policy projects informed by the science and technology expertise of the Lab. Her projects have focused on nuclear nonproliferation and Asia energy security and cooperation. Prior to 2003, she was the Deputy Director General of the Nuclear Energy Agency at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, France. The bulk of her career was with the US Department of State as a Senior Coordinator for Nuclear Safety. She has a BA from Brown University, a MS from the Massachusetts Institute for Technology in Technology and Policy and a MS in National Security Studies from the US National War College. She serves on the Boards of the Pacific Science Center, the Foundation of Russian–American Economic Cooperation and Uplift International and is the Co-head of the Women in International Security, Pacific Northwest Chapter.

The Pacific Northwest Center for Global Security (CGS) wishes to thank the editors of the *Int. J. Risk Assessment and Management* (IJRAM) for the opportunity to team with the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) to compile this IJRAM special issue on biosecurity. Biological threats are not only increasing, but also rapidly evolving as biological research advances humankind's ability to create life or parts of living systems. It is imperative that educational, governmental and security organisations direct their attention jointly to this issue. While the topic is receiving increased attention and effort, much more effort on many fronts is needed to understand, assess and mitigate the range of biological threats we face today, as well as potentially more dangerous and evolving future threats.

Dr Kathryn Baker, the primary editor of this special issue on biosecurity, and Dr Robert T. Brigantic, an assistant editor, are affiliated with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the CGS. The CGS also wishes to thank NORTHCOM for serving as an advocate for this effort, and especially Amy Kircher of NORTHCOM for her contributions as an assistant editor. Finally, the CGS wishes to thank all of those who submitted and reviewed articles for this special issue.

The CGS will continue its efforts to advance understanding and analysis of the biosecurity domain in order to help to inform biosecurity policy, strategy and practices. We are committed to actively pursuing a path forward and to develop the collaborations necessary to advance this cause. To this end, CGS supported Dr Kathryn Baker in performing a qualitative meta-analysis of the articles in this journal in an attempt to identify the complexity of this topic, including both the connections and synergies as well

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as differences and potential conflicts across the many diverse areas of biosecurity. The CGS is especially committed to actively pursuing the path forward as recommended by Dr Baker and others, and to develop the cross-national multi-disciplinary and multi-agency collaborations necessary to effectively identify, assess and address biosecurity issues that threaten our nation and the global community.

Sincerely,

Carol Kessler

Director,

Pacific Northwest Center for Global Security.