

## Farewell

Dear Readers,

Information Systems for Biotechnology will cease operations on September 14, 2017, as our 30-year association with USDA will be terminated. This is the final issue of the ISB News Report.

A bit of history seems in order. The Information Systems for Biotechnology (ISB) program was established at Virginia Tech in 1988 as part of the National Biological Impact Assessment Program (NBIAP), which was administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research Service for 20 years, and USDA APHIS for 10 years. ISB hosts the database for online searches of the USDA's Environment Releases database that catalogs all field tests and petitions for deregulation of genetically engineered organisms under USDA authority. Approximately 1,353,500 searches of the ISB database website are conducted annually, of which over 82,000 are unique visitors. Additionally, ISB has hosted many conferences, workshops and focus groups in our efforts to gather and distribute information about agricultural biotechnology research and product development, biotechnology and biosafety regulations, and environmental issues associated with small and large-scale releases of genetically modified organisms in agriculture.

Going forward, the USDA APHIS will take over hosting the environmental release database on their website.

You may continue to access and download our publications – the two workshop proceedings and the “Greenhouse Guide” – at our website until September 14th. After that, the publications will be available for download from the Virginia Tech Library website VTechWorks. We will be adding back issues of the News Report to VTechWorks as time allows.

VTechWorks: <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/handle/10919/78421>

On behalf of the previous and current ISB staff, I want to express our gratitude for your interest in the ISB program, for reading the News Report, for participating in our workshops and conferences, and for all the countless authors who have contributed articles to the News Report over the years.

Kind regards,

Ruth Irwin  
Editor and Principal Investigator