From: Jonathan Herington
To: Jonathan Herington;
Subject: Biosecurity News 03
Date: Monday, 2 June 2008 6:49:20 PM

The University of Sydney

University of Sydney
Biosecurity Program

BIOSECURITY NEWS 03

30 May 2008

Contents

1. Program News
2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues
3. News and Articles
- Avian Influenza
- HIV
- Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Biological Weapons
- Biosecurity Policy and Ethics
    - Global Health Governance
4. Special Topic: Health Care in Disaster Zones

If you received this email as a forward and wish to subscribe to future issues of Biosecurity News, please contact Jon Herington (j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au)

---

1. Program News

Apologies for the somewhat late posting this fortnight, I hope that my tardiness does not reduce this service's usefulness. Offered as explanation, but not excuse, is the fact that it has been a busy and exciting fortnight for the program, including discussions on an exciting series of collaborations, and formal announcements for these will be coming in the next few months. Stay tuned!

Our subscriber base for the *Biosecurity News* continues to grow, so if you have any events or news items which you wish to publicise to an interested audience please don't hesitate to contact me. As always, suggestions on the wider mail-out are sincerely appreciated.

Jon

---

2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The Lancet is publishing a **special issue on Social Determinants of Health** on 8 November 2008. A call for papers has been made, and is seeking articles with "an emphasis on action—what the doctor, public-health worker, policy maker, and politician can do to reduce inequalities and tackle the broad interplay of economic and social forces affecting health."

A new journal, entitled ***Public Health Ethics***, has just produced its inaugural issue. Available here: http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol1/issue1/index.dtl

The 61st World Health Assembly was held in the past fortnight. Some key points were made on intellectual property, smallpox stockpile eradication, pandemic planning and the importance of primary healthcare. More info and key documents can be found here: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2008/wha61/en/index.html

---

3. News and Articles

Avian Influenza

'The Evolutionary Genetics and Emergence of Avian Influenza Viruses in Wild Birds'
1 June 2008
http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000076

'Influenza Pandemic Preparedness in Developing Countries'
1 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/6/875.htm

Contest for H5N1 journalists to raise standards of disease communication
1 June 2008
http://www.vnagency.com.vn/Home/EN/tabid/119/itemid/250834/Default.aspx

'Environmental Factors Contributing to the Spread of H5N1 Avian Influenza in Mainland China'
31 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002268

‘Experimental Infection of Cattle with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus (H5N1)’ – possible use for cattle as a sentinel animal
31 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/07-1468.pdf

‘Proficiency of Nucleic Acid Tests for Avian Influenza Viruses, Australasia’
31 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/07-1098.pdf

GPs not involved in Australian pandemic planning
29 May 2008
http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-05/ra-fpm052708.php

H7 subtypes of HPAI are showing signs of human transmissibility
27 May 2008
http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/105/21/7558

Researchers make novel re-assortments of the 1957 and 1968 Pandemic strains.
26 May 2008
http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000072

‘Influenza Vaccines Produced by High Yield Bacterial Expression’ – novel rapid vaccine manufacture technique
24 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002257

Bangladesh registers its first human case of H5N1 (from January, only just confirmed)
23 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/rss/news/int/search/news%2Bsport/bird+flu/-/2/hi/south_asia/7415553.stm

‘Glaxo to market bird flu vaccine’ (pre-pandemic strain making headlines everywhere)
19 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7407714.stm
and
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080520/full/news.2008.844.html

HIV

The potential impact of male circumcision interventions on the spread of HIV in southern Africa
31 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002212

‘Court rejects HIV asylum seeker’
27 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7421045.stm

An overview of the debate over AIDS relief as a distorter of health systems
23 May 2008
http://feeds.cgdev.org/~r/cgd/blogs/globalhealth/~3/296037579/aids_spending_harms_1.php

‘Rethinking (Product) RED’ - critique of the corporate donation model to the Global Fund
16 May 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608606716/
plus numerous commentaries on the above article and Project RED:
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607874/
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607886/
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607898/
and the author’s reply:
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607916/

Emerging Infectious Diseases

New *Emerging Infectious Disease* issue – articles on Ebola, Avian Influenza, Plague as well as other ERIDs
1 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/index.htm

‘Increasing drug-resistant tuberculosis in the UK’
31 May 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7655/1201
and the raw data:
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7655/1231

Super integrons (e.g in *V. cholerae* O1) as a method of quinolone-resistance acquisition
31 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/08-0132.pdf

New TB drugs promising, but a long way off
22 May 2008

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309908701191/

Genetic variations (IL-12) play an important role in SARS survival rates
17 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002183

Real-time prediction of epidemic potential of emerging infectious diseases
17 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002185

Spread of bacterial and viral pathogens in aircraft (NIOSH study)
17 May 2008
http://annhyg.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/52/2/139

Biological Weapons

'Big Bucks for Biosecurity Research—But Who's Doing What?'
30 May 2008
http://www.aibs.org/washington-watch/washington_watch_2008_05.html

'Countries ill-equipped to ensure global biosafety'
29 May 2008
http://uk.oneworld.net/article/view/160556/1/

'FDA approves levofloxacin for anthrax in children'
20 May 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/may2008levo.html

'Bioterror Threat Exaggerated, Scientist Says'
19 May 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_5_20.html#8AE9E247
and the full interview
http://www.miller-mccune.com/article/355

'CDC biolab not ready after 2 1/2 years'
16 May 2008
http://www.ajc.com/services/content/metro/stories/2008/05/15/cdclabs_0515.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=13

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'General Practice and Pandemic Influenza: A Framework for Planning and Comparison of Plans in Five Countries' – by Mahomed Patel et al. (member of the ANU National Centre for Biosecurity)
31 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002269

'Google launches free electronic health records service for patients'
31 May 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7655/1207

'Fate of Plum Island Animal Lab still unclear' – plans to move US foot and mouth lab to the mainland
30 May 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/320/5880/1146a?rss=1

Researchers make novel re-assortments of the 1957 and 1968 Pandemic strains.
26 May 2008
http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000072

Carbon nano-tubes and 'asbestos-like' qualities
25 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/blog/nsb052008_nano.html
and the original article
http://www.nature.com/nnano/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/nnano.2008.111.html

'Australia's New Science Budget Gets a Mixed Review'
23 May 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/320/5879/998b?rss=1

'Homeland Security used wrong study for Foot and Mouth research plan'
22 May 2008
http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2008/05/homeland-security-used-wrong-study-for-foot-and-mouth-research-plan.php
and the original testimony (PDF)
http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08821t.pdf

'Reluctant Patient Agrees to TB Treatment in Taiwan'
20 May 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_5_20.html#6E8DEF7C

Global Health Governance

Intellectual property issues being resolved at the WHA
30 May 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/may3008property_br.html

WHO Director General opens the 61st World Health Assembly – arguing for more cooperation on pandemic influenza (among others)
23 May 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7654/1155-g
and the official page with all the documents:
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2008/wha61/en/index.html

'Public-Private Partnerships and Scientific Imperialism'
23 May 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/320/5879/1016

'UK steps up its global public health security'
22 May 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309908701117/

---

4. Special Topic: Health Care in Disaster Zones

Health care in the aftermath of disasters is one of the oldest topics investigated by those interested in health and security. From the perspective of security studies, the quintessential human security issue has long been the dramatic drops in healthcare capacity caused by disasters (both natural and man-made). Conversely, public health practitioners and policymakers will be well aware of the need to sometimes mobilise the military and other security apparatus in order to meet health objectives in remote or devastated regions. The aftermath of the Cyclone Nargis in the Irawaddy Delta and the high magnitude quake in Wenchuan province, China have produced a flurry of reminders and commentary in the global health press. Some of which is reproduced here:

The BMJ summarises the initial toll of the Chinese earthquake (http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7654/1151). The Lancet does much the same for Cyclone Nargis (http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607448/), amid reports of cholera emerging as a serious health threat (http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSBKK28545020080516).

Interestingly, especially give the amount of manpower and resources devoted to hastily burying the dead in mass graves, 'Revere' at the public health blog *Effect Measure* along with the World Health organisation, have spoken out regarding the common myth that cadavers represent a public health risk (http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2008/05/once_again_dead_bodies_dont_ca.php). Indeed, of greater concern is the extent to which flood waters and earthquakes can disrupt municipal water supplies and overwhelm sanitation systems, creating the preconditions for the much commented on 'second disaster' scenarios

The Lancet also has a detailed report (behind a subscription firewall) on the health challenges faced by China after the earthquake (http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608607801/). As does the British Medical Journal (http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7655/1209-a), which carries the summation of the WHO Assistant Director General for health action in crises, Eric Laroche, that "the key health issue in the earthquake's aftermath is to prevent and control communicable disease outbreaks…but the longer term challenge is how to best rebuild its damaged health infrastructure"

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

If you received this email as a forward and wish to subscribe to future issues of Biosecurity News, please contact Jon Herington (j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au)

Jonathan Herington | Project Officer (Biosecurity)
Centre for International Security Studies

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS
Room 466 | Merewether Building (H04)
The University of Sydney | NSW | 2006

p +61 2 9351 5739 | **e** j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au
w http://ciss.econ.usyd.edu.au