From: Jonathan Herington
To: Jonathan Herington;
Subject: Biosecurity News 06
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The University of Sydney

University of Sydney Biosecurity Program

BIOSECURITY NEWS 06

11 July 2008

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The University of Sydney Biosecurity Program is coordinated by the Centre for International Security Studies.

CENTRE for INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

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1. Program News

The past fortnight has been a busy one for the University of Sydney Biosecurity Program. Members of the Program attended the consultation workshops for the new Security-Sensitive Biological Agents Standard. This is being implemented to support the *National Health Security Act* (2007). A number of new regulations for the use of select biological agents and toxins will come into force from January 2009. The consultation workshops included brief discussions on a number of areas including 'information security', personnel reliability, physical security of facilities, and the cost of implementing the new standards for industry and universities. Submissions to the consultation process must be made online before **1 August**. More information can be obtained by contacting me or by visiting the SSBA website: http://www.health.gov.au/ssba

We are also planning to hold the 2nd Annual Biosecurity Symposium at Sydney University on the **9-10 February 2009**. The symposium, similar to that held at ANU earlier this year, will be an opportunity for cross-disciplinary exchange of information and ideas between academics and policymakers. A call for abstracts will be sent out shortly with more details.

Jon

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2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

Our colleagues at the Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health section of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, are planning a 3-day introductory course on ***"Import risk analysis for animals and animal products"***. Material for the workshop will be based on a series of cases studies derived from import risk analyses completed by government agencies. They are planning to hold the workshop from **23-25 September 2008** at the Camden Campus of The University of Sydney. Course fees will be $250 for students and $400 for others. Enquiries should be directed to: Dr Naomi Cogger (N.Cogger@massey.ac.nz).

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The 10th Annual Swedish Symposium on Biomedicine, Ethics and Society was held from the **9-10 June**. This year's topic was "**Dual Uses of Biomedicine: Whose Responsibility?**" and included a number of eminent speakers. The proceedings and presentations have just been posted to the website and are well worth a look for those interested in dual-use issues. More info: http://www.crb.uu.se/symposia/2008/index.html

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Global Public Health has published its next issue, a supplement on '*The Contested Politics of Sexual and Reproductive Health*'. It can be accessed at: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g794869237

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Previous Announcements

- Aberystwyth University. *Summer School – The Global Politics of Health: Ideas, Institutions and Policies*. Registration Due:

31 July 2008. Workshop: **10-12 September 2008**. More info: http://www.aber.ac.uk/interpol/en/research/10417-booklet.pdf

- *Understanding and Controlling Infectious Diseases: An Agenda for the 21st Century*. Abstracts: **14 September 2008**. Conference: **11-13 November 2008** More info: http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/conf/sb/clp7

- *BioSecure 2008*. Abstracts: **15 August 2008**. Workshop: **2 December 2008**. More info: http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2008/

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3. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza
'The long war against flu' – *Nature* discusses pandemic preparedness fatigue
10 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7201/full/454137a.html

Are vaccine stockpiles the best defence against pandemic influenza?
10 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7201/full/454162a.html

Nature discusses the failure of this year's seasonal vaccine – and steps to improve its production
10 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7201/full/454160a.html

'Bird flu quarantine lifted in China's Guangdong province'
10 July 2008
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/10/content_8524969.htm

'Whatever happened to bird flu?'
9 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080709/full/news.2008.945.html

Evolution sites within H5N1 virus in current human cases
8 July 2008
http://www.sgm.ac.uk/jgvdirect/002469/002469ft.pdf

Examination of community based pandemic mitigation policies.
8 July 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002606

'Bird flu virus "unlikely to reach Australia"'
1 July 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/01/2290851.htm

'Bird flu "still a major threat"'
28 June 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7457054.stm

'Roche unveils plan to boost employer antiviral stockpiling'
26 June 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/biz-plan/news/jun2608tamiflu.html

'AI situation improving but threat remains, UN expert says'
17 June 2008
http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=27055

HIV
The Lancet comments on the ICRC declaration of AIDS as a 'global disaster'
5 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608609666/

'S. African addicts turn to AIDS medication to get high'
2 July 2008
http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=080702170725.c8gbhoky&show_article=1

'Designer protein tackles HIV' – synthetic enzyme created for use against HIV
30 June 2008
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080630/full/news.2008.924.html

Emerging Infectious Diseases
Structure of Ebola surface protein reveals its strengths and weaknesses
10 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7201/full/7201xa.html
and the full report:
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7201/full/nature07082.html

Hendra virus has re-appeared in horses in Brisbane
9 July 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/09/2299076.htm?section=justin

Programme-wide management of MDR-TB – thoughts from the Stop-TB Partnership
8 July 2008
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050150

HealthMap: Internet-based EID intelligence
8 July 2008
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050151
and the actual service (which we highlighted in the first *Biosecurity News*):
http://www.healthmap.org/

Melbourne conference calls for greater action against MRSA and other 'super bugs'
7 July 2008
http://news.sbs.com.au/worldnewsaustralia/infections_bug_hospitals_amid_push_for_solution_551185

New TB vaccine trial outcomes undergo WHO inspection
1 July 2008
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050145

Produce-borne Salmonella (Saintpaul) outbreak in US, no final source found despite 800 cases
28 June 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/news/jun2708outbreak-br.html

Biological Weapons
The American Veterinary Association has release guidance on a vet's role in disaster preparedness (including bioterrorism response)
10 July 2008
http://www.avma.org/avmacollections/disaster/default.asp

Plague immunity induced by Lipid A mimetic
6 July 2008
http://mic.sgmjournals.org/cgi/content/full/154/7/2131

'Germ warfare fear over African monkeys taken to Iran'
6 July 2008
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article4276460.ece

US Army version of CDC now providing health intelligence to civilian agencies
2 July 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_7_3.html#FC7F282E

'Pay-off agreed for expert fired after anthrax attacks'
2 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080702/full/454015c.html
further discussion:
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_6_30.html#26FAF4A2
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121478249006714421.htm

Tularaemia vaccine work suffers a setback.
30 June 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002487

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics
CDC failure to trace Salmonella outbreak (linked above) blamed on Bioterrorism Act shortcomings
10 July 2008
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/10/health/policy/10tomato.html

'Making the dual-use problem a "piece of cake"'
9 July 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/making-the-dual-use-problem-a-piece-of-cake

The debate over the future of the NAMRU-2 laboratory in Indonesia continues.
5 July 2008
http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-virus5-2008jul05,0,2146766.story

Nature tackles the issue of communicating science to policymakers
2 July 2008
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080702/full/454016a.html

Another post in the excellent roundtable on the BWC and 'biowarfare threats'
2 July 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/roundtables/the-expanding-range-of-biowarfare-threats

Global Health Governance
'Justice in translation: from bench to bedside in the developing world'
5 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608609964

'Human security approach for global health'
5 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360860971X/

'Documenting Mortality in Crises' – how do we measure ID deaths in crisis situations and how do we *use* them?
1 July 2008
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050146

'Safer water, better health' – WHO report on estimates of the burden of disease due to water
1 July 2008
http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/saferwater/en/index.html

'How to prevent a tenth of the global disease burden' – *The Lancet* on water and sanitation
30 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608609253/

'NGO Code of conduct hopes to stem internal brain drain'
30 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360860937X/
and the code itself:
http://ngocodeofconduct.org/

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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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