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Subject: Biosecurity News 07
Date: Friday, 25 July 2008 2:35:27 PM

The University of Sydney

University of Sydney Biosecurity Program

BIOSECURITY NEWS 07

25 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

National Centre for Biosecurity

The University of Sydney has concluded negotiations to collaborate formally with the ANU through the National Centre for Biosecurity (NCB). As 2 September 2008, the NCB will be a joint ANU-USyd entity. The principal objectives of the new co-located Centre are to:

- promote biosecurity-relevant research, education and training activities
- raise interdisciplinary and public awareness of biosecurity issues
- develop closer working relationships with government agencies to assist them in developing effective responses to biosecurity challenges
- foster international information exchanges and other collaborations, especially in the Asia-Pacific region
- attract external funding to support these objectives.

We will be holding a short ceremony to witness the signing of the agreement by the Vice-Chancellors of the Australian National University and the University of Sydney, Professor Ian Chubb and Dr Michael Spence. The details are: **2 September 2008, 3-5pm in the Holme and Sutherland Rooms** of the Holme Building, University of Sydney. A separate invitation will be sent out shortly.

Symposium

The 2nd Annual Biosecurity Symposium will be held at the University of Sydney on **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. You will have already received the Call for Abstracts. We look forward to receiving your proposals. Registration information will be distributed in October.

Jon

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2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The Centers for Law and the Public's Health has released a report on the **"Legal Preparedness for School Closures in Response to Pandemic Influenza and Other Emergencies"**. It is available at: http://www.publichealthlaw.net/Projects/panflu.php.

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The Faculty of Veterinary Science, at the University of Sydney's Camden Campus, is offering a **PhD scholarship** to undertake research into the **Economics of Animal Health Emergencies**. The successful applicant will develop a framework that can be applied to assess both the economic costs and benefits of disease control and disease prevention for transboundary diseases (including foot-and-mouth disease, equine influenza, and the Asian honeybee mite). More details

can be found at http://agile-prod.ucc.usyd.edu.au/research/opportunities/opportunities/617

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The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies has released the results of their survey into "**Global Health Diplomacy Education"**. See pp72-73 for information on courses conducted at the University of Sydney (notably the Master of International Public Health and the Master of International Security). The full report is available at: http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/webdav/site/globalhealth/shared/1894/Health%20Diplomacy%20Education%20Survey%20-%20v9.pdf

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The Federation of American Scientists has created a site which has the **entire archive of the US Congress' Office of Technology Assesment.** Historical biosecurity relevant reports are here:
http://fas.org/ota/otareports/topic/btopics/

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Global Public Health has published its next issue (Volume 3, Issue 3) in addition to the supplement we reported last fortnight. It can be accessed at: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g794993670~db=all~tab=toc~order=page

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Medicine, Conflict and Survival has published its next issue (Volume 24, Issue 3). It can be accessed at: http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g794993742~db=all?jumptype=alert&alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

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Science has published a special issue on **microbial drug resistance** (Volume 321, No 5887). It can be accessed at:
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol321/issue5887/index.dtl
and another special issue on **HIV/AIDS funding** (Volume 321, No 5888):
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol321/issue5888/index.dtl

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Previous Announcements

- Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. *Import risk analysis for animals and animal products*. Workshop: **23-25 September 2008**. More info: Dr Naomi Cogger (N.Cogger@massey.ac.nz)

- 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 US Dept. of Health has released its *Guidance on allocating and targeting pandemic influenza vaccine*
24 July 2008
http://www.pandemicflu.gov/vaccine/allocationguidance.pdf

'World warned over killer flu pandemic' (UK House of Lords committee report)
21 July 2008
http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-wellbeing/health-news/world-warned-over-killer-flu-pandemic-872809.html
and from *The Guardian*, BBC and BMJ:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/jul/21/pandemic.warning
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7516850.stm
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/jul21_2/a927
and the full report:
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldintergov/143/143.pdf

'Influenza virus in human exhaled breath'
21 July 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002691

'Deaths from Bacterial Pneumonia during 1918–19 Influenza Pandemic'
21 July 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/8/pdfs/07-1313.pdf

'Bacterial Pneumonia and Pandemic Influenza Planning'
21 July 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/8/pdfs/07-0751.pdf

‘Domestic pigs have low susceptibility to H5N1 HPAI’
14 July 2008
http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000102

Siti Fadilah Supari publishes an extended article justifying Indonesia’s decision to withdraw from virus sharing
1 July 2008
http://www.annals.edu.sg/PDF/37VolNo6Jun2008/V37N6p482.pdf

HIV

‘The effect of HIV/AIDS on international health’
23 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309908701671/

‘Does HIV/AIDS still require an exceptional response’
23 July 2008-07-24
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309908701580/

‘Human rights abuses are fuelling HIV epidemic’
21 July 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/jul21_1/a900

Global Health Policy analyses the new PEPFAR bill
18 July 2008
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/07/pepfar_reauthorizati_2.php
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/07/pepfar_reauthorizati.php
as does *Nature*
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080723/full/454381e.html

PEPFAR funding passes US Senate – funding increased to US$48 billion over 5 years
17 July 2008
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/17/washington/17aids.html

‘US set to overturn HIV travel ban’
17 July 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7512422.stm

‘Malaria gene increases HIV risk’
16 July 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7509210.stm
a scientific commentary:
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7203/full/454371c.html
and the original article:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18621010

Population and Environment has a new issue on AIDS, demography and environment
May 2008
http://www.springerlink.com/content/hk015u412j00/?sortorder=asc&v=condensed

Emerging Infectious Diseases

The Lancet Infectious Disease reports on the 13th International Congress on Infectious Disease
23 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309908701725/

Two human cases of Hendra virus emerge in Queensland
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/18/2307321.htm
timeline of the coverage:
Two separate horse contacts (one North Qld, one SE Qld):
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/15/2304087.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/15/2304542.htm
Vet workers become infected in SE Qld:
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/15/2304678.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/16/2304781.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/15/2304602.htm
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/07/17/2306485.htm

‘The bacteria fight back’ – Science special section on microbial drug resistance
18 July 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/321/5887/356

Foodborne *Salmonella* outbreak in the US – analysis of vulnerability of food supply
16 July 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/laura-h-kahn/food-borne-illness-attack-of-the-killer-tomatoes
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/10/health/policy/10tomato.html

and the official word on the *Salmonella* (Saintpaul serovar) outbreak:
http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/tomatoes.html

'Marburg fever case reported in Netherlands' (tourist who likely contracted the virus from cave bats in Uganda)
10 July 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/vhf/news/jul1008marburg.html

Biological Weapons

Biological threat reduction in Central Asia
18 July 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/biological-threat-reduction-central-asia

Interview with FBI forensic investigator on the 2001 anthrax attacks.
17 July 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/rn/inconversation/stories/2008/2299962.htm

Novel vaccinia virus immune suppression mechanism (E3 blocks ISG15 activity)
14 July 2008
http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000096

Characterisation of gene expression during poxvirus infection (vaccinia and monkeypox)
14 July 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002628

Yersinia pestis genotyping for source identification
14 July 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002652

Iran denies using African monkeys for 'secretive' laboratory test
13 July 2008
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/13/content_8536106.htm
and Iranian TV's original story
http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=63505&sectionid=3510210

'Biological weapons "greatest terror threat to UK"'
11 July 2008
http://www.inthenews.co.uk/news/science/biological-weapons-greatest-terror-threat-uk-$1231187.htm

The Irish Ricin plot turns very strange indeed
11 July 2008
http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/0710/1215537706109.html

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'British judge bans student's scientific studies'
22 July 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_7_22.html#B3941E86

Creation of a 'registry of biological parts' for synthetic biology applications
21 July 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002671

'New policy tries to ease security restrictions on defense research'
18 July 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/321/5887/325

The 'military and neuroscience' roundtable continues.
17 July 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/roundtables/the-military-application-of-neuroscience-research#rt3666

National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) holds a public consultation meeting on it's framework for dual-use research oversight.
16 July 2008
http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2008/07/public-consultation-meeting-of-the-nsabb.php
and the draft framework itself:
http://www.biosecurityboard.gov/Framework%20for%20transmittal%200807_Sept07.pdf

The University of Pittsburgh Center for Biosecurity analyses the 08-09 US Biodefense budget
11 July 2008
http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/publications/2008/2008-06-15-billionsforbiodefense.html

Global Health Governance

'The effect of IMF loans on health outcomes'
22 July 2008

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050143
plus a commentary on the artcile
http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050162&ct=1

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars hosts a speech on the linkages between 'Population, Health and Environment'
21 July 2008
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1413&fuseaction=topics.event_summary&event_id=382625
and a video link to one of the presentations:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGUtXzU-xb8

Five metaphors about global-health policy
17 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608610132/

'Global Health and G8 – is power just too sweet to share?'
17 July 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608610041/

Ex-US Dept of Health Secretary advocates 'health diplomacy' as a tool of US national security
16 July 2008
http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=773513

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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