



National Centre for Biosecurity



The University of Sydney

BIOSECURITY NEWS 13

17 October 2008

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This newsletter is managed by the [Centre for International Security Studies](#) at the University of Sydney.



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1. Program News

Members will have received an invitation to the **Biosecurity Collaboration Forum** on Thursday **27 November 2008**. The purpose of this event is to identify research areas of mutual interest and suggest interdisciplinary projects with a view to applying for research funding. Twenty-five participants are sought for the forum, which will consist of a full day at the Coogee Crowne Plaza Hotel, with refreshments and lunch provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact Jon Herington (j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au or 9351 5739) by **20 November 2008**.

Grant Success

I offer my sincere congratulations to several of our colleagues who were successful in their applications for ARC Discovery Project funding. These projects are fine examples of the kind of inter-disciplinary work required to solve complex biosecurity challenges. They are:

- Dr Christian Enemark and Dr Michael Selgelid - *'Infectious disease, security and ethics'*
- Professor Belinda Bennett and Professor Terry Carney - *'Legal and ethical preparedness for pandemic influenza'*

We hope that the Collaboration Forum will produce a number of similarly successful partnerships.

Regards

Jon

2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The US Department of Defense has launched a website detailing the chemical and biological warfare testing program that it carried out during the Cold War. Information has been released on projects up until the 1970s. The specifics of exposures of military personnel, including testing methodologies and results, are listed on the site. Accessed at: <http://fhp.osd.mil/CBexposures/>

The next issue of *Global Public Health* (Volume 3, Issue 4) has been released. Accessed at: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g904218274~db=all>

The August issue of the *American Journal of Bioethics* (Volume 8, Issue 8) was released as special edition on the ethics of pandemics. Accessed at: <http://www.bioethics.net/journal/index.php?jid=48>

Previous Announcements

- The draft **National Health Security Amendment Regulations 2008** have been released. Consultation closes: **22 October 2008**. More info: <http://www.health.gov.au/ssba>
- **The Coupland Prize** for undergraduate life scientists. **Entries close 31 October 2008**. More info: <http://www.bwpp.org/CouplandCompetition2008.html>
- *Genetics and Genomics of Infectious Disease*. Conference: **21-24 March 2009** in Singapore. Abstract: **3 December 2008**. More info: <http://www.nature.com/natureconferences/ggid2009/>
- *7th ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting*. Abstracts: **12 November 2008**. Conference: **22-25 February 2009**. More info: <http://www.asmbiodefense.org/Abstracts.asp>
- Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore is offering a 1-year **Fellowship / Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Governance and Security**. More info: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/jobs.html>
- 3rd International Conference on *Influenza Vaccines for the World*. Abstracts: **Friday 31 October 2008**. Conference: **27-30 April 2009** in Cannes, France. More info: http://www.meetingsmanagement.com/ivw_2009/index.htm
- US Department of State's **Biosecurity Engagement Program** provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information: <http://www.bepstate.net/index.html>
- *Understanding and Controlling Infectious Diseases: An Agenda for the 21st Century*. Conference: **11-13 November 2008** More info: <http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/conf/sb/clp7>
- *BioSecure 2008*. Workshop: **2 December 2008**. More info: <http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2008/>

3. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza

Structural characterisation of the 1918 Influenza neuraminidase
16 October 2008

<http://jvi.asm.org/cgi/content/abstract/82/21/10493?etoc>

H5N1 in Thailand's live bird markets

15 October 2008

<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/11/pdfs/08-0683.pdf>

'Countries lagging in pandemic plans, UN warns'

13 October 2008

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/IRIN/2a14617d7551103e94067d7f1ca83e2f.htm>

'US controls bird flu vaccines over bioweapon fears' (NCB Co-Director, Ian Ramshaw, quoted)

11 October 2008

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/10/11/international/i002546D38.DTL>

and commentary from NTI Newswire

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_10_14.html#55DD1D6F

Preliminary study recommends 'antigen-priming' of populations before pandemic occurs

9 October 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7659113.stm>

and the original article

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/359/15/1631>

H5N1 virus strain in Northern Vietnam has been replaced with strain originating in Southern China

6 October 2008

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003339>

CIDRAP Editorial on the link between seasonal vaccine capacity and pandemic preparedness

3 October 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/biz-plan/news/oct0308solvay.html>

Pandemic control measures and attitudes to compliance in Australia

15 September 2008

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/8/117>

HIV

'AIDS rife in Indonesian prisons: official'

16 October 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/16/2393530.htm>

Protective effect of circumcision doubted

13 October 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7656229.stm>

Emerging Infectious Diseases

'TB scare at Qld university'

14 October 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/14/2391170.htm>

Unknown haemorrhagic disease in South Africa – linked to a new zoonotic arenavirus

13 October 2008

<http://tinyurl.com/5pvtfc> - Pubmed story

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2008_10_13/en/index.html

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/10/06/2383556.htm>

'The bugs we cannot defeat'

8 October 2008

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24461851-28737,00.html>

'Bacterial (MRSA) coinfections boosting child flu deaths'

7 October 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/oct0708flumrsa.html>

Biological Weapons

Editorial on the difficulty in dispensing prophylactic pharmaceuticals during a bioterrorism event

12 October 2008

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/13/opinion/13wein.html>

'Powder scares, other hoaxes top 30,000 in US'

12 October 2008

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_10_14.html#5DA18C4B

'Texas offering \$100 million in incentives to gain biodefense facility'

9 October 2008

<http://austin.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2008/10/06/daily52.html>

Two firms win US govt support for Ebola-Marburg vaccines

8 October 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/oct0808marburg-jw.html>

'SARS was Chinese BW program, Taiwan official says'

7 October 2008

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_10_7.html#799591C6

followed by a retraction of the comment

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_10_8.html#ED6F027C

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

DIY-Bio training session (amateur biologists)

11 October 2008

<http://blog.diybio.org/2008/10/diybio-meetup-in-boston-on-thursday.html>

Editorial on the recent Synthetic Biology 4.0 meeting in Hong Kong

10 October 2008

<http://etcblog.org/2008/10/10/hanging-in-hong-kong-with-the-syn-bio-crowd/>

Nanotech construction using DNA

7 October 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/081007/full/news.2008.1157.htm>

Company on track to offer complete human genome sequencing for \$1000 by next year

6 October 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/081006/full/news.2008.1151.html>

UK high-security labs to be revamped

3 October 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/081003/full/news.2008.1149.html>

Global Health Governance

'WHO agrees plan to speed up research on risk to human health from climate change'

14 October 2008

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/oct14_1/a2081

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)

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