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BIOSECURITY NEWS 16

19 December 2008

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1. Symposium 2009 – Registration Open

A reminder that registrations for the 2nd Annual Biosecurity Symposium, to be held 9-10 February 2009 at The University of Sydney, are open (see attached flyer). A preliminary program will be distributed shortly. The deadline for registration is **30 January 2009**

Registration Fees

Registration fees for the symposium include lunch, morning tea and afternoon tea. All fees are listed in Australian Dollars:

Full registration (2 days)	\$250
Single day	\$150
Student	\$100

Symposium Dinner

The optional Symposium Dinner is to be held at the Forum Restaurant, Darlington Centre on the University of Sydney campus from 6:30pm on Monday 9 February. The cost (\$80) includes a three course meal and drinks. Attendance at the dinner will be limited to 100 registrants.

Further registration information and a web-based registration system are available at:
http://www.biosecurity.edu.au/conferences_reg.php.

2. Program News

This will be the last Biosecurity News for 2008. We hope that you have found the mailing list a useful resource during the year. Next year promises to be an exciting period for the National Centre for Biosecurity, and we hope that you continue to take an interest in our work.

On behalf of the National Centre for Biosecurity, I wish you all a Happy Holiday and a festive New Year. The Biosecurity News will return in the first half of January 2009.

Jon

3. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The latest issue of Public Health Ethics (Volume 1, Number 3) has been released. Accessed at:
<http://phe.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol1/issue3/index.dtl>

Previous Announcements

- *Unhealthy Governance: Securitising Infectious Diseases in Asia*. Workshop: **21-22 May 2009** in Hong Kong (flights and accom. provided for accepted presenters). Abstract due: **2 January 2009**. More information: Dr Nicholas Thomas, ndthomas@hku.hk or Professor Richard Fielding, fielding@hkusua.hku.hk.
- *Communicable Diseases Control (CDC) Conference*. **4-6 May 2009** in Canberra. More information: www.diseases.consec.com.au
- *Genetics and Genomics of Infectious Disease*. Conference: **21-24 March 2009** in Singapore. More info: <http://www.nature.com/natureconferences/ggid2009/>
- *7th ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting*. Conference: **22-25 February 2009** in Baltimore, United States. More info: <http://www.asmbiodefense.org/Abstracts.asp>
- 3rd International Conference on *Influenza Vaccines for the World*. 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>

4. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza

'Safety and immunogenicity of H5N1 influenza vaccine based on Baculovirus system'
 16 December 2008
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003933>

'Fresh bird flu outbreak in India'

16 December 2008

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7784947.stm

Report on monoclonal antibodies which are cross-protective against H5N1 and H1N1

16 December 2008

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003942>

'Last-Minute Progress Made On Pandemic Flu'

15 December 2008

<http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/index.php?p=1372>

'HK finds bird flu on chicken farm'

11 December 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7777389.stm>

'Financial crisis jeopardizing bioterror preparedness, report warns'

10 December 2008

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081210_3944.php

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/dec0908tfah-jw.html>

and the original report:

<http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/bioterror-report-2008.pdf>

Reports from NGO participant on the WHO Influenza Intergovernmental Meeting

10 December 2008

<http://immunocompetent.com/index.php?op=ViewArticle&articleId=24&blogId=1>

<http://immunocompetent.com/index.php?op=ViewArticle&articleId=25&blogId=1>

HIV

'Getting high on HIV drugs in South Africa'

8 December 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7768059.stm>

Zimbabwe Cholera Outbreak

Zimbabwe cholera toll nears 1,000

16 December 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/12/16/2447277.htm>

'Mugabe claims cholera, anthrax was released by the UK'

13 December 2008

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/zimbabwe/3725130/Mugabe-claims-cholera-was-released-by-the-British.html>

Mugabe government denies, then retracts denial, cholera outbreak

12 December 2008

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/africa/article5330376.ece>

'Zimbabwe declares cholera national emergency'

5 December 2008

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/12/04/zimbabwe.cholera.emergency/index.html>

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/337/dec10_1/a2942

Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

'Prevalence of tuberculosis drug resistance in 10 provinces of China'

11 December 2008

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/8/166>

New malaria vaccine reported as more than 50% effective

11 December 2008

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/359/24/2599>

and the original research article

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/359/24/2521>

Ebola Reston found in pigs

11 December 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/vhf/news/dec1108ebola.html>

and analysis:

http://scienceblogs.com/aetiology/2008/12/ebola_in_pigs.php

Biological Weapons

'US Army eyes Dugway test-grid changes'

16 December 2008

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,705270889,00.html>

Anthrax cell membrane protein essential for virulence

11 December 2008

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v456/n7223/full/456678f.html>

and the original report

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000210>

'Analysts debate bioterror risks'

11 December 2008

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081211_8851.php

and the original interviews, which can be found here (video content):

<http://www.flypmedia.com/issues/18/#1/1>

'The Report of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism'

10 December 2008

<http://www.preventwmd.gov/report/>

and analysis of the biological technology sections:

<http://www.synthesis.cc/2008/12/cheery-reading-world-at-risk-the-report-of-the-commission-on-the-prevention-of-wmd-proliferation-and.html>

'Russia backs legally binding oversight system for Biological Weapons Convention'

9 December 2008

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20081209_7554.php

and the full series of reports from the BWC meeting:

[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#)

'Unifying the US government response to bioterrorism'

8 December 2008

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/laura-h-kahn/unifying-the-us-government-response-to-bioterrorism>

'Biodefense Program Poses Its Own Risks'

5 December 2008

<http://www.propublica.org/feature/biodefense-program-poses-its-own-risks>

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

Extension of the host-range of a synthetic SARS coronavirus

17 December 2008

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/50/19944.short>

'How Kansas nabbed the new bio- and agro- defense lab'

12 December 2008

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/322/5908/1620b>

'Fearing the fear of nanotechnology'

9 December 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/081209/full/news.2008.1290.html>

The Lancet has released a special issue on 'The Right to Health' (Volume 372, Issue 9655)

6 December 2008

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol372no9655/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)X6052-0](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/issue/vol372no9655/PIIS0140-6736(08)X6052-0)

and an editorial on the subject

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608617845/fulltext>

'Setback for key UK animal lab'

5 December 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/081205/full/news.2008.1284.html>

Global Health Governance and Disease Control

'The Disconnect between China's Public Health and Public Security Responses to Injection Drug Use'

9 December 2008

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050240>

'The role of medical language in changing public perceptions of illness'

8 December 2008

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003933>

'Global public health: a scorecard'

6 December 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608615585/abstract>

'Global control of health-care associated infections'

6 December 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608618279/fulltext>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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