



National Centre for Biosecurity



The University of Sydney

BIOSECURITY NEWS 21

13 March 2009

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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. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

MedWorm, a new medical search engine and RSS feed collector, has been launched. Distinct from the type of service offered by PubMed and ProMedMail, the site allows researchers to search general health news and authoritative blogs for keywords of their choice. As the website states: 'MedWorm collects updates from over 6000 authoritative data sources (growing each day) via RSS feeds...from the data collected, MedWorm provides new outgoing RSS feeds on various medical categories'. The service can be accessed at: <http://www.medworm.com/>

Previous Announcements

- *Genetics and Genomics of Infectious Disease*. Conference: **21-24 March 2009** in Singapore. More info: <http://www.nature.com/natureconferences/ggid2009/>
- The Consortium of Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia (NTS-Asia) invites applications for a 3-month Research Fellowship Programme, which will commence in July 2009. Applications due: **13 April 2009**. More info: <http://www.rsis-ntsasia.org/activities/research-fellowship.html>
- 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
- *Communicable Diseases Control (CDC) Conference*. **4-6 May 2009** in Canberra. More information: www.diseases.consec.com.au

- US Department of State's **Biosecurity Engagement Program** provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information: <http://www.bepstate.net/index.html>

2. PhD Studentships

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine invites applications for a 3-year studentship to undertake a PhD in the area of Global Health Governance within the Department of Public Health & Policy. The studentship will cover course fees (at UK/EU rate) and a student stipend for three years. An additional £2000 per year will be provided to cover direct research costs and fieldwork. Application deadline: **20 March 2009**. More information available at: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/funding/ERC_Studentship.htm

The Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics has advertised for an ARC-funded PhD scholarship to examine ethical and security issues associated with infectious disease. The PhD research project will examine "the nature and value of security and how the value of security should be balanced against other legitimate social aims in the context of naturally occurring epidemic disease." Applicants should forward their CV and covering letter (highlighting area(s) of interest) to Dr Michael Selgelid by **3 April 2009**. For more information, please contact: Michael.selgelid@anu.edu.au

In the context of the Wellcome Trust funded project "**Building a Sustainable Capacity in Dual-Use Bioethics**" two PhD studentships are available from October 2009 for three years that cover the cost of UK/EU PhD tuition fees and an annual average maintenance grant of £19,600.

The holder of one of the studentships will work under the supervision of Dr. Brian Rappert in the Department of Sociology and Philosophy at the **University of Exeter**. The holder of the second studentship – with a focus on the *dual-use aspects of synthetic biology* – will work under the supervision of Dr. Alexander Kelle in the Department of European Studies and Modern Languages at the **University of Bath**.

University of Exeter Applications:

Applicants are required to contact Brian Rappert (B.Rappert@ex.ac.uk; also Tel +44 (0)1392 263353) with a short initial expression of their interest (no more than 500 words) by the deadline. More information at: <http://admin.exeter.ac.uk/academic/scholarships/search/scholarship.php?id=260>

University of Bath Applications:

Applicants are required to contact Alexander Kelle (A.Kelle@bath.ac.uk) with a short initial expression of their interest (no more than 500 words) by the deadline. Further information will be provided on request.

Deadline: **15 April 2009**

3. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza

'Resistance of flu virus to oseltamivir is growing, US study shows'
12 March 2009
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/mar12_2/b995

'Avian Influenza Risk Perception among Poultry Workers, Nigeria'
10 March 2009
<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/15/4/pdfs/07-0159.pdf>

'Royal Society urges integration of human and veterinary medicine'
10 March 2009
<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v15/n3/full/nm0309-227a.html>

'Influenza seasonality: lifting the fog'

10 March 2009

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/10/3645.short>

'Molecular Characterization of H5N1 Viruses Isolated from Raccoon Dogs in China'

9 March 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004682>

'Global Transmission of Oseltamivir-Resistant Influenza'

5 March 2009

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/10/953>

'Early and sustained innate immune response defines pathology and death in nonhuman primates infected by HPAI'

3 March 2009

<http://www.pnas.org/content/106/9/3455.short>

Vaccinia virus-based multivalent H5N1 vaccine adjuvanted w/ IL-15 confer cross-clade immunity

3 March 2009

<http://www.jimmunol.org/cgi/content/full/182/5/3063>

'Induction of Long-Term Protective Immune Responses by Influenza H5N1 Virus-Like Particles'

2 March 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004667>

Contaminated Baxter vaccine contained live H5N1 virus

27 February 2009

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/canada/2009/02/27/8560781.html>

'Second bird flu death in Vietnam for 2009'

27 February 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7914044.stm>

'Development of Epitope-Blocking ELISA for Universal Detection of Antibodies to Human H5N1 Influenza Viruses'

24 February 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004566>

HIV

'Drug Resistance Mutations for Surveillance of Transmitted HIV-1 Drug-Resistance: 2009 Update'

6 March 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004724>

'Compound may block HIV infection'

5 March 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7921195.stm>

and the advanced article:

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/nature07831.html>

'China's evolving response to HIV/AIDS'

28 February 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609604128/fulltext>

Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

'A lion in our village – the unconscionable tragedy of cholera in Africa'

12 March 2009

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/11/1060>

'Tanks pose possible dengue threat'

10 March 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v15/n3/full/nm0309-224b.html>

Researchers discover Chloroquine inhibits Hendra and Nipah virus maturation

4 March 2009

<http://jvi.asm.org/cgi/reprint/JVI.00164-09v1>

'Dengue fever death in far north Qld'

4 March 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/04/2507240.htm>

'Dengue and climate change in Australia: predictions for the future should incorporate knowledge from the past'

2 March 2009

http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_05_020309/rus10887_fm.html

Characterisation of tuberculosis drug-resistance in New Delhi

24 February 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004540>

'HIV and AIDS infection is spreading in PNG'

7 February 2009

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25019281-2703,00.html>

Biological Weapons

Bioterrorism expert to head US Food and Drug Administration

13 March 2009

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2009/03/11/sources_margaret_hamburg_to_he.html

Interview with geneticist who assisted FBI during Anthrax investigation

13 March 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5920/1416>

Congressional Research Service report on 'Oversight of High-Containment Biological Laboratories'

5 March 2009

<http://blogs.usatoday.com/sciencefair/2009/03/15300-governmen.html>

and the full report:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R40418.pdf>

'Grassroots efforts to impede bioterrorism'

5 March 2009

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/grassroot-efforts-to-impede-bioterrorism>

'The risks of the "pathogen research enterprise"'

4 March 2009

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/the-risks-of-the-pathogen-research-enterprise>

'The self-fulfilling prophecy of bioterrorism' (*The Non Proliferation Review*, Volume 16, Issue 1, pp. 95-109)

3 March 2009

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a909169868>

Over 30 Nations can promptly deploy biological weapons: Russian analyst

3 March 2009

<http://www.interfax-news.com/3/476153/news.aspx>

'Overhauling Homeland Security'

2 March 2009

http://www.cfr.org/publication/18658/overhauling_homeland_security.html

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'Cooperative Threat Reduction programs should be expanded'

6 March 2009

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20090306.html>

and the full report:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12583

'The Danger Within' (*Science* on the 'insider threat' phenomena)

6 March 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5919/1282>

Report by US National Academies on Undergraduate Education in Agriculture

4 March 2009

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20090304.html>

and the full report:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12602

'Canadian Legislation Clamps Down on Access to Disease Agents'

2 March 2009

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090302_2567.php

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090227.wtoxins27/BNStory/National/home>

'Biomedical Scientists' Perceptions of Ethical and Social Implications: Is There a Role for Research Ethics Consultation?'

2 March 2009

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004659>

'Bad blood: MSM and blood donation'

26 February 2009

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/feb26_1/b779

and a debate on the subject:

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/feb26_1/b318

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/feb26_1/b311

Global Health Governance and Disease Control

'Quarantine for pandemic influenza control at the borders of small island nations'

11 March 2009

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/9/27>

Trade and health: and agenda for action

28 February 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608617808/abstract>

'Travellers arriving at Cairns airport should be screened for dengue fever'

7 February 2009

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25019135-5006786,00.html>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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