

Jonathan Herington

From: Jonathan Herington [Jonathan.Herington@foa.anu.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2009 3:10 PM
To: Jonathan Herington
Subject: Biosecurity News 24

BIOSECURITY NEWS 24
 24 April 2009

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1. Program News

The following Biosecurity News is, regrettably, a text-only issue. Our usual link-friendly format should return over the next few weeks. Please accept my apologies...

Jon

2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

Owain Williams and Simon Rushton from Aberystwyth University are again organising a number of health-related panels for the International Studies Association's convention in New Orleans from 17-20 February 2010. The theme for ISA 2010 is 'Theory vs Policy? Connecting Scholars and Practitioners'. Owain and Simon are seeking queries from those willing to present papers, act as chairs for panels or and discussants.

Proposed panel topics include:

- * Bretton Woods and Global Health
- * Privatization, neoliberalism and economism in health policy
- * GHG in developing countries: case studies
- * International Organizations and GHG
- * Health professional mobility
- * TRIPS, Pharmaceuticals and generics: case studies of impact#
- * Theory and concepts of Global Health Governance
- * Regional cases?
- * Global Health Security

Other suggestions for panels will be considered.

Applicants should forward their titles, abstracts and preferred panels to Dr Simon Rushton (sbr@aber.ac.uk<<mailto:sbr@aber.ac.uk>>) and/or Dr Owain Williams (odw@aber.ac.uk<<mailto:odw@aber.ac.uk>>) by the end of April 2009.

Advice Portal for Experiments of Concern launches. From the project leader, Stephen Maurer:

Starting this Friday, UC Berkeley's Public Policy School will host an on-line Portal where researchers contemplating possible "experiments of concern" – i.e. research that could inadvertently push biology in directions that facilitate terrorism or other malicious uses – can get advice from a three member panel of experts. Each panel will include at least one biologist and one security expert. Most researchers should receive clear, written advice within two weeks. For full details, please visit the project web page at <http://gsppi.berkeley.edu/EoC/uc-berkeley-synthetic-biology-security-program/experiments-of-concern/>.

The Portal is a grassroots project by and for biologists. So please spread the word: If you are contemplating an experiment of concern, know somebody who is, or would be willing to serve a volunteer reviewer for others – please log on and contact the Portal.

A new research network, entitled The Health and Foreign Policy Research Network, has been created. The Network is a community of international scholars and policy makers examining the intersection between global health and foreign policy. It provides a monthly bulletin which is quite comprehensive. More information can be found at: <http://www.igloo.org/healthandforeignpolicy>

Previous Announcements

* 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<<http://www.diseases.consec.com.au/>>

* The Lancet Infectious Diseases and The Lancet are organising a conference and special issue on influenza in the Asia-Pacific region. Papers due: 7 May 2009. Conference: 21-23 August, 2009 in Qingdao, China. More info: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909700829/>

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

3. Positions and PhD Studentships

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is seeking a Research Fellow in Global Health Governance to assist with a 4-year project entitled: 'The Transformation of Global Health Governance: Competing World Views and Crises'. The School is particularly keen to attract applicants with proven knowledge or experience of tobacco control policy, global health governance and human rights. The closing date for applications is 5 May 2009. More information: <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/jobs/JV738/>

4. News and Articles

--- Pandemic and Avian Influenza ---

Swine Flu Outbreak in California, Potential Human-Human Transmission

21 April 2009

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0421a1.htm?s_cid=mm58d0421a1_x

and extended coverage:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>
<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/04/swine-flu-infec.html>

Study details antibody repertoire following H5N1 infection

21 April 2009

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000049>

and comment:

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000064>

'Avian Flu Cases in Egypt Raise Alarms'

20 April 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/21/health/21flu.html>

Analysis of this year's flu season in the US

17 April 2009

http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/04/this_years_flu_season.php

Endonucleases in avian influenza polymerases

16 April 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v458/n7240/full/nature07720.html>

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v458/n7240/full/nature07745.html>

--- HIV ---

'Obama administration may flat-line funding for PEPFAR'

18 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609607558/fulltext>

Report on a second-generation HIV microbicide

15 April 2009

<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/short/106/15/6099>

and comment:

<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/short/106/15/6029>

'Has HIV Become More Virulent?'

7 April 2009

<http://www.idsociety.org/Content.aspx?id=13968>

and the full article:

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/597777>

--- Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases ---

'Incubation periods of acute respiratory viral infections: a systematic review'

23 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909700696/abstract>

Denué Fever Update (special interest on Argentina, Australia)

19 April 2009

<http://promedmail.com/pls/otn/f?>

[p=2400:1001:2221720256254844::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,77109](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/17/2545243.htm)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/17/2545243.htm>

Unidentified death of Russian Train Passenger not SARS, 53 persons quarantined

17 April 2009

<http://itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=13845897&PageNum=0>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLGG942819>

'Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease Spreading Quickly in Beijing'

16 April 2009

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/15471/>

'Disease in a warming climate'

9 April 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090409/full/news.2009.361.html>

--- Biological Weapons ---

'Army Nearly Done With Probe of Fort Detrick Lab'

23 April 2009

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/22/AR2009042202005.html>

'Estimating the Location and Spatial Extent of a Covert Anthrax Release'

10 April 2009

<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pcbi.1000356>

--- Biosecurity Policy and Ethics ---

Lab-acquired dengue infection in Brisbane

22 April 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/22/2549104.htm>

'H5N1 influenza vaccination policy in Japan'

22 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909701069/fulltext>

'Bioethicists enter the dual-use debate'

20 April 2009

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/bioethicists-enter-the-dual-use-debate>

53 Quarantined after unknown death on Russian train (see above)

17 April 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLGG942819>

'A synthetic-biology reality check'

15 April 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090415/full/458818a.html>

'Genes Show Limited Value in Predicting Diseases'

15 April 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/16/health/research/16gene.html>

Vietnam has first BSL-3 lab certified by WHO

15 April 2009

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=02HEA110409>

'Vulnerability and ethics: considering our Cartesian hangover'

11 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609607157/fulltext>

--- Global Health Governance and Disease Control ---

'Infection control in the management of highly pathogenic infectious diseases: consensus of the European Network of Infectious Disease'

23 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909700702/abstract>

'Health slips as the financial crisis grips'

18 April 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609607479/fulltext?>

Political epidemiology: Strengthening socio-political analysis for mass immunisation

14 April 2009

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a910419605>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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Jonathan Herington

From: Jonathan Herington [Jonathan.Herington@foa.anu.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2009 3:09 PM
To: Jonathan Herington
Subject: Biosecurity News 24 - Addendum 27 April 2009

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Contents

1. Swine Flu Outbreak - Headline Details
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The following is an addendum to Biosecurity News 24 to provide more detail in relation to outbreaks of Swine Influenza.

1. Swine Flu Outbreak - Headline details

The following is a summary of the key points regarding the evolving Swine Flu situation

- 1300+ cases reported or suspected centered around Mexico and the south-western United States
- 81 estimated deaths localised to Mexico, 16 laboratory confirmed as a novel swine flu strain
- WHO Director General suggests virus has 'pandemic potential'
- Outbreak declared a 'public health emergency of international concern' under the International Health Regulations
- WHO currently recommends an increase in surveillance for influenza-like illness by member nations
- WHO Pandemic Alert System remains at Phase 3

*Sources:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation_world/20090425_ap_whodeclaresswineflucrisisa
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0424a1.htm>
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_20090425/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_26/en/index.html

2. Epidemiological Features

The Virus

- Virus in Mexican and Californian cases has been identified as a novel strain of H1N1 Influenza A.
- Contains a mix of genetic material from avian, human and swine influenza strains.
- Sequence information is available for the Californian strains - designated A/California/04/2009 A (H1N1) - through GISAID. Sequence IDs for segments (GISAID users only, public access to follow):

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/swineflu_genesequences_20090425.pdf

Transmission Dynamics

- Suspected human to human transmission (see <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0424a1.htm>)
 - Majority of cases have been young and healthy individuals
- It should be noted that the WHO recommends that more data is acquired before accurate predictions of the outbreaks epidemiology, including the nominal case fatality ratio, are made.

Antiviral Resistance

US authorities are reporting that the strains of the virus circulating in the US are resistant to amantidine, but is susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamir.

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/recommendations.htm>

Geographic Spread

Mexico - Federal District (1300+ cases, 85 deaths)

United States - New York (8 cases)

United States - California (7 cases)

United States - Kansas (2 cases)

United States - Texas (2 cases)

United States - Ohio (1 case)

New Zealand (10 cases)

Canada (6 cases - 4, Nova Scotia; 2, Ontario)

United Kingdom (1 suspected case)

France (2 suspected cases)

Spain (2 suspected cases)

See: http://promedmail.com/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:195368444621864::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,77215

Official Sources

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

Social Media Reporting (rapid news gatherers)

<http://www.scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/>

<http://twitter.com/Veratect>

3. Response

Soldiers and Police search for people with influenza-like symptoms in Mexico

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/8474216>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103485844&ft=1&f=1001>

Mexican President issues emergency decree extending government's powers to detain and search

<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN25479998>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aEsNownABJ6Q>

School closures and all public events cancelled for ten days in Federal District, Mexico

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1173263/Killer-pig-flu-threat-UK-Two-people-admitted-British-hospital-virus-killed-86-spreads-worldwide.html>

NZ school group quarantined upon return from Mexico

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/26/2552882.htm>

Australian authorities respond

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/04/26/2552809.htm>

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