From: Alexis Pillsbury
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BIOSECURITY NEWS 30

18 September 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. Program News

The University of Sydney Biosecurity Program (USBP) has awarded research grants for two projects:

Securitisation and Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Global and Australian Perspectives
Investigators: Dr James Gillespie (Principal), School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine; and Mr Joel Negin, School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine.

Assessment of the Health Risks of a West Nile Virus Outbreak in Australia and the Optimal Surveillance for Mitigating these Risks
Investigators: Dr Marta Hernandez-Jover (Principal), Department of Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Science; Professor Michael Ward, Department of Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Science; and Professor Tom Kompas, Australian Centre for Biosecurity and Environmental Economics, ANU.

Congratulations to Dr Gillespie and Dr Hernandez-Jover and their colleagues.

The USBP intends to issue another Call for Biosecurity Project Proposals early next year.
- - - - -
ANU Associate Professor Thomas Faunce, one of the founders of the National Centre for Biosecurity, has been awarded an ARC Future Fellowship for his project ***Fostering Safe Nanotechnology Research Focused on Critical Public Health Problems***. The project builds upon Faunce's unique interdisciplinary research and collaborations to develop an innovative framework for improving occupational health and safety standards of nanotechnology research at the ANU and fostering its focus on critical public health problems such as biosecurity, food and water safety, pollution

control and equitable access to health technologies.
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Reminder: the National Centre for Biosecurity will hold the 3rd Annual Biosecurity Symposium on 1 – 2 February 2010 and has called for proposals for presentations addressing the theme 'Global Health Security'. The deadline for abstracts is 31 October 2009. More information

Information on registration will be circulated in October.

Kind regards,

Alexis

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2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) International Symposium and Workshop is taking place from 12 – 14 April 2010 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme for the Symposium and Workshop is *Integrating Science and Management* and the deadline for abstracts is 9 November 2009. More information
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Previous Announcements

- *Global Biosecurity 2010: safeguarding agriculture and the environment* will be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 28 February – 3 March 2010. More information
- The International Society for Infectious Diseases is organising the *14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases* (ICID) in Miami, Florida, USA, on 9 – 12 March 2010. The deadline for abstracts is 1 November 2009. More information
- The *2010 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases* will be held 11 – 14 July 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. More information
- The US Department of State's Biosecurity Engagement Program provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information

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3. Special Coverage: H1N1 Influenza Pandemic 2009

Official Sources

WHO

- 'Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 - update 65' (11 September 2009)
- 'Weekly update – virological surveillance data' (11 September 2009)
- 'Measures in school settings' (11 September 2009)

CIDRAP

- CIDRAP (Center for Disease Research and Policy) has a comprehensive H1N1 information site that is updated frequently: 'Novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu)'.

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Epidemiology, Disease Progression and Impact

'Four-fifths of businesses foresee severe problems maintaining operations if significant H1N1 flu outbreak' (US)
Harvard School of Public Health
9 September 2009

'WHO warns of winter swine flu surge in Asia'
AFP

9 September 2009

'Scientists warn over swine flu virus potency'
Times Online
10 September 2009

'Tamiflu-resistant swine flu viruses may have spread in U.S. summer camp'
The Canadian Press
11 September 2009
(Report referred to: 'Oseltamivir-resistant 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus infection in two summer campers receiving prophylaxis --- North Carolina, 2009', *CDC*, 11 September 2009)

'Swine flu spreads week or more after symptoms'
MSNBC
14 September 2009

'Study involving 21 Spanish hospitals states 50% of swine flu, ICU patients had no health problems'
Barcelonareporter.com
15 September 2009
(Research referred to: 'Intensive care adult patients with severe respiratory failure caused by influenza A (H1N1)v in Spain', *Critical Care*, 11 September 2009)

'Expert says swine flu 'hid' for decade'
The Globe and Mail
16 September 2009

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Response

'Swine flu agitates the adjuvant debate'
Nature
5 September 2009

'Australia's swine flu vaccination plans come under fire'
BMJ
8 September 2009

'Early results suggest 1 dose of H1N1 vaccine may be protective'
CIDRAP
10 September 2009
(Research referred to: 'Response after one dose of a monovalent influenza A (H1N1) 2009 vaccine — preliminary report', *NEJM*, 10 September 2009)

'A race against time to vaccinate against novel H1N1 virus'
Science
11 September 2009

'Behavioural responses to influenza pandemics'
PLoS Currents
13 September 2009

'China gears up for swine flu vaccination as virus spreads inland'
BMJ
14 September 2009

'Parents weigh the risk of vaccinating children for H1N1'
Los Angeles Times
14 September 2009

'Flu experts gear up for pandemic of vaccine worry'
Reuters
16 September 2009

'Saudis dismiss Hajj swine flu fears but other states worry'
Abs-cbnnews.com
16 September 2009

'Swine flu vaccine is a "thousandfold" safer than the infection, say experts'
BMJ
16 September 2009

'U.S. to review masks policy as study shows they don't stop flu'
Bloomberg.com
16 September 2009

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Commentary

'Finding a scapegoat when epidemics strike'
The New York Times
31 August 2009

'Influenza has a cure - it's affluence'
The Globe and Mail
5 September 2009

'Swine flu vaccines, adjuvants, equity, safety'
Effectmeasure
7 September 2009
and
'Swine flu vaccines, adjuvants, equity and safety: more discussion'
Effectmeasure
8 September 2009

'Pandemic influenza vaccine policy — considering the early evidence'
NEJM
10 September 2009

'The end of flu season'
Effectmeasure
10 September 2009

'**Maximizing the value of drug stockpiles for pandemic influenza'**
CDC
11 September 2009

'Does Tamiflu resistant swine flu virus really spread less well?'
Effectmeasure
16 September 2009
(Report referred to: 'Swine flu that resists Tamiflu is harder to spread, WHO says', *Bloomberg.com*, 15 September 2009)

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4. News and Articles

HIV

'HIV/AIDS, undernutrition, and food insecurity'
Clinical Infectious Diseases
2 September 2009

'Potent HIV antibodies spark vaccine hopes'
Science
4 September 2009
(Research referred to: 'Broad and potent neutralizing antibodies from an African donor reveal a new HIV-1 vaccine target', *Science*, 3 September 2009)

'Male circumcision for HIV prevention in high HIV prevalence settings: what can mathematical modelling contribute to informed decision making?'
PLoS Medicine

8 September 2009

'HIV infection and tuberculosis in South Africa: an urgent need to escalate the public health response'
The Lancet
12 September 2009

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Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

'Experts seek ways to fight spread of dengue fever in Asia'
The New York Times
1 September 2009

'Calibrated response to emerging infections'
BMJ
3 September 2009

'Laboratory surveillance for wild and vaccine-derived polioviruses --- worldwide, January 2008--June 2009'
CDC
4 September 2009

'Papua New Guinea: first cholera cases in 50 years'
IRIN News
7 September 2009
and
'Fears as PNG diseases spread'
ABC News
12 September 2009

'Pakistan resumes Taliban-banned polio vaccinations'
The Boston Globe
9 September 2009

'Hendra risk reduction plan targets bats'
ABC News
14 September 2009

'New virus from rats can kill 80 per cent of human victims'
The Sydney Morning Herald
15 September 2009

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Biological Weapons

'Advanced life sciences' Restanza demonstrates efficacy in treating anthrax infection'
Medical News Today
1 September 2009

'Researchers pursue new anthrax vaccine'
Global Security Newswire
10 September 2009

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Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'The bioethics of infectious diseases' (Interview)
Policy Innovations
26 August 2009

'Hacking goes squishy - biotechnology: the falling cost of equipment capable of manipulating DNA is opening up a new field of "biohacking" to enthusiasts'
The Economist
3 September 2009

'Gene technology, biological weapons, and the security of science'
Security Studies
4 September 2009

'New proposal would secure pathogens, both dangerous and safe'
ScienceInsider
9 September 2009

'National laboratory inventories for wild poliovirus containment --- Western Pacific Region, 2008'
CDC
11 September 2009

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Global Health Governance and Disease Control

'Boosting our best shot'
Nature
5 September 2009

'New plan seeks to accelerate African diagnostic capacity'
Nature
5 September 2009

'Vaccine venture boosts health hopes'
Nature
16 September 2009

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Best wishes and happy researching,

Alexis

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