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The University of Sydney

University of Sydney
Biosecurity Program

BIOSECURITY NEWS 02

16 May 2008

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1. Program News

The response to the first Biosecurity News has been positive, and I encourage our readers to circulate these updates to anybody who might be interested. If you have any news which you would like included in the fortnightly update, don't hesitate to send me an email. As always, comments and suggestions on the format or content are appreciated.

Jon

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2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

Public Health Reports has published a special issue on biosecurity (with a focus on zoonoses, avian influenza and bioterrorism). It is the result of a meeting organised by the respective associations of public health and veterinary graduate schools. The issue can be accessed at:
http://www.publichealthreports.org/archives/issuecontents.cfm?Volume=123&Issue=3

Warwick University in the UK is holding **Transmission 2008**, a workshop on infectious disease epidemiology, from **7-9 July 2008**. The stated aim of the conference is 'to consider models from within-host to global scales, and how they may effectively inform public policy'. More info, including a list of some high profile guest speakers, can be found at:
http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/transmission2008/

A retirement seminar was held for **Professor John Mackenzie** of the Australian Biosecurity CRC on the 18 April 2008. David Heymann of the WHO spoke on health security and healthcare workers. Audio and video of the event can be viewed at:
http://www.abcrc.org.au/pages/news.aspx?NewsArticleID=294&Display=1

The 3rd Annual Conference of the **Australian and New Zealand Chapter of the Society for Risk Analysis** is being held at the Australian National University from September 30 to October 1. Our partner organisation at ANU, the National Centre for Biosecurity, is co-sponsoring the event. Abstract submissions are being called for, with a deadline of **4 July 2008**. For more info:
http://www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/sra/news.html

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3. News and Articles

Avian Influenza
'Indonesia to provide bird flu data online'
16 May 2008
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ilPWosUPwePm-tfuKZJ_-YVEd81QD90M6PKG1

Single anti-flu drug 'not enough' (Tamiflu resistance in human H5N1 and circulating H1N1)
15 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7398369.stm
original article:
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/nature06956.html

'Bird flu remains low risk to Australia'
13 May 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/200805/s2242928.htm

Entire poultry population of Seoul culled
12 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7395743.stm

Japan passes new laws to deal with pandemics
11 May 2008
http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ed20080511a1.html

'Paltry' culling compensation responsible for fresh outbreaks in India
11 May 2008
http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/india-news/paltry-compensation-for-culled-birds-sparks-fresh-cases-of-bird-flu-in-west-bengal_10047581.html

WHO asks for more collaboration and less secrecy from flu researchers
9 May 2008
http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09555922.htm

Lloyd's of London releases report on a pandemic's business impact
2 May 2008
http://www.lloyds.com/News_Centre/Features_from_Lloyds/Prepared_for_a_pandemic_02052008.htm

HIV
'Soldiers sue South African military over AIDS discrimination'
16 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7402250.stm

PEPFAR expansion and re-authorization blocked in US senate
14 May 2008
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/13/AR2008051302305.html

Call for UNAIDS to be shutdown due to its distortion of health sectors
9 May 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7652/1072

Policy forum on HIV prevention strategies – incl. discussion of link between conflict/poverty and HIV
9 May 2008
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/320/5877/749

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Measles cases in US for 2008 has already surpassed total cases for the last 5 years (from MMWR data)
16 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5719md.htm?s_cid=mm5719md_x

China's hand, foot and mouth outbreak is still raging
7 May 2008
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/07/content_8117639.htm

Risk factors for sporadic shiga-toxin producing E.coli infections in children
5 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/5/763.htm

Biological Weapons

Antidote to Botulinum toxin 'closer'
12 May 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7395731.stm

Air force updates its counter-biological warfare plan
12 May 2008
http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123098357

'Smallpox drug does well in first human safety test'
8 May 2008
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/smallpox/news/may0808poxdrug.html

'Man pleads not guilty to federal charges in Vegas ricin case'
2 May 2008
http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jHS90ne-2-wjkHu_N158TrQ_wJpwD90DM2M02

Very low-level detection of Botulinum toxin in complex biological substances - PLOS One 3 (4)
30 April 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002041

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

US National Biodefense Center director says they will not "create threats in order to study them"
13 May 2008

http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2008/05/nbacc-director-says-they-will-not-create-threats-at-lab.php
full audio and video of his speech can be accessed at:
http://www.csis.org/component/option,com_csis_events/task,view/id,1655/

'Johns Hopkins students to work at army biolab'
13 May 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_5_13.html#E8153B58

'Farmers blast "broken" quarantine system'
13 May 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/05/13/2242720.htm

Potential compensation for sacked US soldiers who refused to take anthrax vaccine
11 May 2008
http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2008/05/airforce_anthrax_051008w/

An entire train is quarantined in Canada after single suspicious death
9 May 2008
http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Politics/2008/05/09/5523396-cp.html

New US pandemic triage guidelines (low priority to elderly and critical care patients)
5 May 2008
http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/05/05/MNM210GNVM.DTL
and the actual guidelines
http://www.chestjournal.org/cgi/content/full/133/5_suppl/51S

'Pandemic influenza planning in the US from a health disparities perspective'
5 May 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/5/709.htm

Report on risk associated with US BSL-3 and -4 labs
29 April 2008
http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12208&page=1

Global Health Governance
Should poaching of medical talent from Africa be considered a 'crime against humanity'?
12 May 2008
http://allafrica.com/stories/200805120084.html

Correspondence on healthcare worker brain-drain from developed world
10 May 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/section?issue_key=S0140-6736(08)X6021-0&section=Correspondence
original editorial here:
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608602743/

A third of dispensed anti-malarial drugs in some severely affected African countries do not meet active ingredient standards
7 May 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002132

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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