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Subject: Biosecurity News 04
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The University of Sydney

University of Sydney Biosecurity Program

BIOSECURITY NEWS 04

13 June 2008

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The University of Sydney Biosecurity Program is coordinated by the Centre for International Security Studies.

CENTRE for INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

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1. Program News

We have had a number of new people from outside the University join the mailing list, so I thought it pertinent to explain the University of Sydney Biosecurity Program (USBP) and its objectives.

The USBP concept of 'biosecurity' focuses on infectious disease threats to human and animal health, and encompasses:

- biological weapons issues
- naturally-occurring disease outbreak disasters
- safety and security of laboratory research on pathogenic micro-organisms
- lessons for human and animal biosecurity from the plant sector
- the relationship between infectious disease patterns, public health capacity, state functioning and violent conflict

The Program is coordinated by the Centre for International Security Studies, which focuses on non-traditional international security issues. However, a broad range of disciplines are represented in the Program's membership. These include the fields of microbiology, health law, public health, ethics, immunology, science communication, medicine, molecular genetics, epidemiology, veterinary health, security studies and political science.

Through the use of our expertise and by fostering greater inter-disciplinary collaboration, the USBP seeks to promote biosecurity-relevant research, education and outreach activities. In particular, we seek to raise interdisciplinary and public awareness of key issues while also assisting government in developing effective responses to biosecurity challenges.

If you'd like more info on the USBP outside of that provided by these News updates, please contact me (j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au).

Jon

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2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

BioSecure 2008, the annual Biosurveillance and Biosecurity Workshop, will be held as part of the pre-conference program of the International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) 7th Annual Conference. ISDS is the organisation which publishes the ProMed newswire and the workshop comes highly recommended by Prof Raina MacIntyre of the USBP. The workshop is being held on the **2 December 2008** in **Raleigh, North Carolina**. More info can be found here: http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2008/

Paper submissions for the same conference are due by **15 August 2008**

The 7th Louis Pasteur Conference on Infectious Diseases is being held at the Institut Pasteur from **11-13 November 2008**. The theme of the conference is **Understanding and Controlling Infectious Diseases: An Agenda for the 21st Century**. Abstracts are due by **14 September 2008**. More info and the abstract submission form, can be found at: http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/conf/sb/clp7

The 2008 **Pacific Health Summit** is being held in **Seattle, USA** on the **16-18 June 2008**. WHO Director-General Margaret

Chan is expected to make a speech on the summit's focus, nutrition. More info can be found at: http://pacifichealthsummit.org/default.aspx

The 1st HIV/TB Global Leaders Forum was held on the 9 June. Some news from the conference is included below under the HIV subheading. More info and key documents can be found here: http://www.stoptb.org/events/hivtbleaders/home.html

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3. News and Articles

Avian Influenza
'A Clinical Trial of a Whole-Virus H5N1 Vaccine Derived from Cell Culture'
12 June 2008
http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/358/24/2573
and comment
http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/358/24/2540

Modelling exercise on strategic antiviral use (both Tamiflu and Relenza) to control resistance emergence
12 June 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002362

'Risk for Avian Influenza Virus Exposure at Human–Wildlife Interface' (Advance Epub)
11 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/08-0066.pdf

'Optimizing Use of Multistream Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Data' (Advance Epub)
11 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/08-0060.pdf

'Hong Kong begins mass bird cull as H5N1 spreads'
11 June 2008
http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HKU001014.htm

'Indonesia to Keep Quiet on Bird Flu Deaths'
5 June 2008
http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/06/05/health/main4156299.shtml
analysis from CIDRAP and others here:
http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/news/jun0508indonesia-br.html
http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=25509&news_channel_id=1020&channel_id=1020
http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKJAK30854920080606?sp=true
and a potential resolution to the situation:
http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5iLjLvzqks0dzVsIRggemVMdfp-QA

'Indonesia, Australia implementing quarantine strengthening program'
5 June 2008
http://www.antara.co.id/en/arc/2008/6/5/indonesia-australia-implementing-quarantine-strengthening-program/

'New US bird flu plan suggests more drug stockpiles'
4 June 2008
http://www.reuters.com/article/africaCrisis/idUSN04253571

H7N3 Outbreak in Britain
3 June 2008
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7434400.stm
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7435760.stm

HIV
'Coinfection of tuberculosis and HIV poses global threat'
13 June 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7657/1330-a
http://www.voanews.com/english/Africa/2008-06-09-voa14.cfm

'International conference calls for better prevention to contain the spread of AIDS'
13 June 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7657/1333-d

'HIV/AIDS Funding and Health Systems: How do AIDS Donors Interact with National Health Systems?'
12 June 2008
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/06/hivaids_funding_and_1.php

Interview with UNAIDS Director, Peter Piot
12 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360860820X/fulltext

Topical oestrogen as an alternative to circumcision for HIV risk reduction
12 June 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002308

UNAIDS: 'Antiretrovirals reach more people in poor countries but many still lack access'
7 June 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7656/1270-j
and
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7430835.stm

Emerging Infectious Diseases
'The emergence of *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*' – a new 'superbug'?
13 June 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7657/1322

Australian quarantine inquiry slams AQIS over horse flu outbreak
12 June 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/12/2272769.htm

Report on a successful clinical trial of a killed whole-cell vaccine for O1 and O139 cholera
12 June 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002323

Report on an outbreak of Dengue and *Chikungunya* in Madagascar, 2006
11 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/7/pdfs/07-1521.pdf

'Multi-drug resistance responsible for half of deaths from healthcare associated infections in Europe'
7 June 2008
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7656/1266-a

'Public Health Consequences of a False-Positive Laboratory Test Result for Brucella'
6 June 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5722a3.htm

Biological Weapons
'Understanding President Bush's FY2009 Biodefense Budget Request'
12 June 2008
http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2008/06/understanding-president-bushs-fy2009-biodefense-budget-request.php

Tularemia case in New York City
12 June 2008
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:3342104840620094::NO::
F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,72811

Anthrax deaths in Kyrgyzstan, suspected equine source
11 June 2008
http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:3342104840620094::NO::
F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,72792

Report on recent worldwide research on animal pox viruses
4 June 2008
http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/2008/06/open_source_cent-2.html
and the full report
http://www.fas.org/irp/dni/osc/pox.pdf

Richard Danzig, former bioweapons consultant to the DoD, named as Obama advisor
3 June 2008
http://www.newsweek.com/id/139894/page/2

US Health Department provides $1.1 billion to improve 'All Hazards Public Health'
3 June 2008
http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2008pres/06/20080603a.html

Controversy over Israeli anthrax vaccine development
1 June 2008
http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_6_2.html#0C98BBE0

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics
"Synthetic Biology: social and ethical challenges"
13 June 2008
http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/reviews/scientific_areas/0806_synthetic_biology.html

'The "What if?" of Dual-Use Research Awareness'
12 June 2008
http://www.scienceprogress.org/2008/06/dual-use-biosecurity/

Synthetic gene insertion and expression in mammalian cell
12 June 2008
http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0002372

'Panel urges further review of controversial NIH lab'
11 June 2008

http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080611/full/453837c.html

'Raising life scientists' awareness'
9 June 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/raising-life-scientists-awareness

USBP Member, Michael Selgelid, is interviewed regarding public health ethics and XDR-TB
7 June 2008
http://www.abc.net.au/rn/philosopherszone/stories/2008/2264539.htm

US Head of the Human Genome Project retires
4 June 2008
http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080604/full/453710a.html

An ongoing online roundtable on bioterrorism
3 June 2008
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/roundtables/the-expanding-range-of-biowarfare-threats#rt2950

"The challenges of developing synthetic pathogens"
19 May 2008 (missed last time around)
http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/the-challenges-of-developing-synthetic-pathogens

Global Health Governance
Innovative solution to the health worker shortfall in Africa, a wellness centre
12 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608156/fulltext

The Lancet reports on the World Health Assembly held last month
12 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608119/fulltext

Health advocacy and political awareness raising for doctors in global health
12 June 2008
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608065/fulltext

'Protecting global health security through the International Health Regulations' (A Canadian perspective)
12 June 2008
http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/rapidpdf/cmaj.080516

WHO conducts a public health security exercise:
6 June 2008
http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/Media_Advisory_WHO%20PHSX.pdf

Using the human body as a metaphor for health systems research
2 June 2008
http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/06/we_need_a_metaphor_f.php

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Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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