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From: Jonathan Herington
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BIOSECURITY NEWS 10

5 September 2008

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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 National Centre for Biosecurity held a highly successful signing ceremony on Tuesday 2 September 2008 at The University of Sydney. Dr. Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of Sydney, and Professor Ian Chubb, Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University signed a 3-year agreement to collaborate on biosecurity research, teaching and outreach. Professor Seumas Miller from ANU then delivered an engaging presentation on the book he co-authored with Dr Michael Selgelid, entitled [Ethical and Philosophical Consideration of the Dual-Use Dilemma in the Biological Sciences](#).

A summary and photographs of the event will shortly appear on the [NCB website](#). Media reports have so far featured in the [Sydney Morning Herald](#), [Canberra Times](#) and on [ABC Radio](#).

You will have noticed that the appearance of this e-newsletter has changed slightly to reflect the collaboration between ANU and the University of Sydney. If you have any questions or queries about the new format, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jon

2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The **2008 Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts** has concluded. Official meeting documents (including statements by many of the State Parties) on oversight, dual-use education and awareness raising programs are available here:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/F1CD974A1FDE4794C125731A0037D96D?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/F1CD974A1FDE4794C125731A0037D96D?OpenDocument)

A lengthy summary of the positions and proceedings from each day is available from a consortium of non-government participants: the Bioweapons Prevention Project (BWPP). See:

<http://www.bwpp.org/2008MX/MX2008Resources.html>

The National Security Science and Technology Branch of the Office of National Security within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has issued a call for applications in its 2009 round of **Research funding for chemical, biological, radiological and health sector projects**. The scheme will co-fund technology projects which "will help the nation prepare, prevent, respond to, or recover from chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) threats". Applications close **10 October 2008**. More info can be found here: <http://www.pmc.gov.au/nsst/cofunding.cfm>

The Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics is hosting a seminar by **Dr Brian Rappert** (University of Exeter) at **4pm, Wednesday 10 September 2008**. The title of the presentation is *Promoting 'Ethics Talk' - Lessons from Engagements with Bioscientists about the Dual-use Dilemma*. The seminar will be held in the Arts Meeting Room, Haydon Allen Building (Building 022), The Australian National University. More info, including an abstract, can be found here: <http://www.cappe.edu.au/forthcoming-events.htm>

The Bioweapons Prevention Project (BWPP) has launched the **Coupland Prize**. Open to undergraduate students in a life science discipline, the prize aims to raise awareness of the Biological Weapons Convention amongst future biologists. "Participating students are requested to write a draft of a letter to their University Dean explaining why the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) should be included as a mandatory component in the curricular of undergraduate courses pertaining to the life sciences. The letter must be no more than **800 words** long, and written in English". First Prize is **US\$2000**, Second Prize is **US\$800**. **Entries close 31 October 2008**. More info: <http://www.bwpp.org/CouplandCompetition2008.html>

Previous Announcements

- The **SSBA Regulatory Scheme Roadshow** has commenced. Registrations are still open for some of the forthcoming dates in Adelaide (17 September), Perth (18 September), Brisbane (22 September), Sydney (23 September) and Melbourne (24 September). More info: <http://www.health.gov.au/ssba>
- Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore is offering a 1-year **Fellowship / Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Health Governance and Security**. The screening of applicants will commence on **5 September** and will continue until the position is filled. Appointees would be expected to **take up the Fellowship by 1 October**. More info: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/programmes.html>
- 3rd International Conference on *Influenza Vaccines for the World*. Abstracts: **Friday 31 October 2008**. Conference: **27-30 April 2009** in Cannes, France. More info: http://www.meetingsmanagement.com/ivw_2009/index.htm
- Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, is offering a **PhD scholarship in Economics of Animal Health Emergencies**. More details can be found at <http://agile-prod.ucc.usyd.edu.au/research/opportunities/opportunities/617>

- US Department of State's **Biosecurity Engagement Program** provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information: <http://www.bepstate.net/index.html>
- Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. *Import risk analysis for animals and animal products*. Workshop: **23-25 September 2008**. More info: Dr Naomi Cogger (N.Cogger@massey.ac.nz)
- *Understanding and Controlling Infectious Diseases: An Agenda for the 21st Century*. Abstracts: **14 September 2008**. Conference: **11-13 November 2008** More info: <http://www.pasteur.fr/infosci/conf/sb/clp7>
- *BioSecure 2008*. Workshop: **2 December 2008**. More info: <http://ai.arizona.edu/BIO2008/>

3. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza

'Correspondence: Fatal Oseltamivir-Resistant Influenza Virus Infection'

4 September 2008

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/359/10/1074>

Characterisation of novel anti-Influenza drug target (RNA pol. subunit)

3 September 2008

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7208/abs/nature07225.html>

New H5N1 DNA vaccine – broad specificity and efficacy in mice

2 September 2008

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2008/09/02/0806901105.abstract>

'Factors associated with case fatality of human H5N1 virus infections in Indonesia'

30 August 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608611253/abstract>

Former Indonesian Ambassador to the UN replies to critiques of his country's virus sharing policy

27 August 2008

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/08/27/the-responsible-virus-and-sharing-benefits.html>

'H1N1 flu viruses growing more resistant to Tamiflu'

25 August 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/aug2508tamiflu.html>

Japanese Health Ministry to seek 59.8b yen (\$598m) in single fiscal year to fight possible pandemic

23 August 2008

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/politics/view/ministry-to-seek-598-bil-yen-to-fight-possible-new-flu-pandemic>

'Evolutionary and Transmission Dynamics of Reassortant H5N1 Influenza Virus in Indonesia'

23 August 2008

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000130>

HIV

Nigeria arranging 'HIV marriages'

4 September 2008

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7598308.stm>

Doctor under fire after calls for HIV quarantine in the pacific

3 September 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2008/s2353723.htm>

HIV infected individuals may be excluded from Australian guest worker scheme

30 August 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/30/2350910.htm>

The *NEJM* summarises the Mexico conference
28 August 2008
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/359/9/885>

The *NEJM* discusses the challenges and prospects of an HIV vaccine
28 August 2008
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/359/9/888>

'Behavioural strategies to reduce HIV transmission'
23 August 2008
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608867/>

Emerging Infectious Diseases

Antibiotic-resistant *Staphylococcus* on the rise within the community
4 September 2008
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/04/2355881.htm>

Report on Nipah virus risk factors
5 September 2008
<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/10/pdfs/06-0507.pdf>

Novel pathogen-induced cell death mechanism (*Vibrio parahaemolyticus*)
4 September 2008
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v455/n7209/full/455004a.html>

Report on the US *Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak, 2008
29 August 2008
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5734a1.htm?s_cid=mm5734a1_x

Report on a drug targeting dormant TB (ATP synthase disruption)
27 August 2008
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v454/n7208/full/4541032d.html>

Review into the Hendra Virus Outbreak in QLD
22 August 2008
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/22/2343509.htm>

Biological Weapons

'Emergent BioSolutions wins \$24.3M to fight anthrax'
3 September 2008
<http://washington.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2008/09/01/daily28.html>

More reporting on the science behind the investigations into the 2001 Anthrax attacks in America
30 August 2008
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/21/science/21anthrax.html>
<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i34/8634notw1.html>

US Defense department to review safety procedures at its labs
26 August 2008
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/anthrax/news/aug2608security-br.html>

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'How to update the biological weapons treaty'
3 September 2008
<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/how-to-update-the-biological-weapons-treaty>

'\$33m research facility to focus on biosecurity' (agricultural biosecurity research facility in Australia)
2 September 2008
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/02/2353721.htm>

'Towards a Data Sharing Culture' (editorial on data sharing between academics on diseases of concern)

2 September 2008

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.0050183>

'Cost Minimization and Medical Examinations: The Case of Anthrax'

30 August 2008

<http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol5/iss1/30/>

And a comment

<http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol5/iss1/45/>

'Dispensing Medical Countermeasures for Public Health Emergencies" (IOM report)

23 August 2008

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12221

The ethics of disease journalism

23 August 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS014067360861260X/>

Report on congressional legislation to improve oversight of select agent labs

22 August 2008

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_8_22.html#D5B0BE62

The Royal Society publishes paper on reducing the risk of the misuse of scientific research

22 August 2008

<http://royalsociety.org/page.asp?tip=1&id=7947>

Global Health Governance

'Addressing the inequities in health: a new and vital mandate'

30 August 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608612829/>

'WHO AFRO's chance to shine'

23 August 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608612507>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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