

## Jonathan Herington

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**From:** Jonathan Herington  
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### **BIOSECURITY NEWS 11**

19 September 2008

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This newsletter is managed by the [Centre for International Security Studies](#) at the University of Sydney.



*\*\*If you received this email as a forward and wish to subscribe to future issues of Biosecurity News, please contact Jon Herington ([j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au](mailto:j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au))\*\**

#### **1. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues**

The American Society for Microbiology will hold the **7<sup>th</sup> ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting** in Baltimore, Maryland from **22-25 February 2009**. The abstract submission deadline is **12 November 2008**. More information can be accessed at: <http://www.asmbiodefense.org/Abstracts.asp>

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The **Federation of American Scientists** has advertised for a **Project Manager** to oversee the implementation of their new web-based initiative in dual-use education and biosecurity awareness-raising amongst life scientists. Interested applicants, preferably with a Masters or Doctorate in the biological sciences, can find more information at: <http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2008/09/job-posting-project-manager-for-biosecurity.php>

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The Department of Health and Ageing has released the third **Security Sensitive Biological Agents Newsletter**: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ssba.htm/\\$file/Issue%203%20-%20SSBA%20Newsletter%20August%202008.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ssba.htm/$file/Issue%203%20-%20SSBA%20Newsletter%20August%202008.pdf)

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The **Industry Association of Synthetic Biology** has released a report on technical solutions to the 'biosecurity problem' associated with work in synthetic genomics:

[http://www.ia-sb.eu/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/iasb\\_report\\_biosecurity\\_syntheticbiology.pdf](http://www.ia-sb.eu/wp-content/uploads/2008/09/iasb_report_biosecurity_syntheticbiology.pdf)

The Association has also released a **press-kit** aimed at explaining synthetic biology and associated issues to the media. Accessed at: <http://www.ia-sb.eu/?p=21>

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The latest issue of *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism* (Volume 6, Issue 3) is available:

<http://www.liebertonline.com/toc/bsp/6/3>

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The October issue of *Bioethics* has been released:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118486360/home>

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### Previous Announcements

- **The Coupland Prize** for undergraduate life scientists. **Entries close 31 October 2008**. More info: <http://www.bwpp.org/CouplandCompetition2008.html>
- The Office of National Security within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is offering **research funding for chemical, biological, radiological and health sector projects**. Applications close 10 October 2008. More info: <http://www.pmc.gov.au/nsst/cofunding.cfm>
- 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**. More info: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/nts/jobs.html>
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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](mailto:N.Cogger@massey.ac.nz))
- *Understanding and Controlling Infectious Diseases: An Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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/>

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## 2. News and Articles

### Pandemic and Avian Influenza

'A Comparison of the Crisis Preparation Strategies for Pandemic Influenza in China and the U.S'

19 September 2008

<http://www.bepress.com/jhsem/vol5/iss1/47/>

'Body exhumed in fight against flu'

16 September 2008

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/humber/7617968.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/humber/7617968.stm)

Report on a broad protection H5N1 DNA-based vaccine

16 September 2008

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/36/13538.short>

'Flu fatigue poses public health threat, WHO says'

15 September 2008

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601202&sid=at0oOdQTLVE0>

Editorial on alleged historical lacuna surrounding the 1918 pandemic

15 September 2008

[http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel\\_health\\_news\\_details.asp?news\\_id=26401](http://chealth.canoe.ca/channel_health_news_details.asp?news_id=26401)

Indonesian diplomats comment extensively on virus sharing arrangements

9 September 2008

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/09/10/international-solidarity-secures-global-health.html>

'Healthcare realities in a pandemic'

9 September 2008

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/laura-h-kahn/health-care-realities-during-a-pandemic>

A nice summary on the complexity of tracking influenza outbreaks

5 September 2008

[http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2008/09/the\\_complexity\\_of\\_the\\_spread\\_o.php](http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2008/09/the_complexity_of_the_spread_o.php)

and the original research article:

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.ppat.1000133>

## HIV

'Iran holds HIV scientists'

17 September 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080917/full/455269a.html>

'Authorities warn of AIDS surge in Aussie travellers'

17 September 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/17/2367465.htm>

'Investment in HIV/AIDS programs: does it help strengthen health systems in developing countries?'

16 September 2008

<http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/4/1/8>

Head of UNAIDS on prevention strategies

6 September 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608880/abstract>

and a research editorial

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608608892/abstract>

## Emerging Infectious Diseases

'WHO declares dengue pandemic in Pacific'

19 September 2008

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/news/stories/200809/s2368750.htm>

*Science* editorial discusses growing microbial resistance ("global pandemic of MRSA")

19 September 2008

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/321/5896/1644>

'Australia in biosecurity hotspot'

16 September 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/09/16/2365807.htm>

MRSA likely emerges locally rather than through cross-border import

16 September 2008

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/37/14130.short>

Media briefing on new disease threats to Australia

15 September 2008

[http://www.aussmc.org/Biosecurity\\_threats.php](http://www.aussmc.org/Biosecurity_threats.php)

Prisons and MDR-TB prevalence in European and Central Asia

9 September 2008

<http://www.pnas.org/content/105/36/13280.short>

Research report on epidemic modelling and global airline traffic

8 September 2008

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0003154>

'New superbug strain (MRSA) loose in the community'

4 September 2008

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/09/04/2355881.htm>

## Biological Weapons

Congress threatens to open inquiry into FBI's handling of the anthrax case

18 September 2008

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2008\\_9\\_18.html#873E0746](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_18.html#873E0746)

FBI to seek independent review of Anthrax case by National Academy of Sciences

17 September 2008

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2008\\_9\\_17.html#6566A1CF](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_17.html#6566A1CF)

'Plant-pathogenic bacteria as biological weapons – real threats?'

15 September 2008

<http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/abs/10.1094/PHYTO-98-10-1060>

'Drug resistant plague – a bioterrorism concern?'

11 September 2008

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2180/8/122>

and

[http://www.news-medical.net/print\\_article.asp?id=41403](http://www.news-medical.net/print_article.asp?id=41403)

'Policy group calls US biodefense progress mediocre'

10 September 2008

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/bioprep/news/sep1008biodefense-br.html>

and the original report (PDF):

<http://www.psaonline.org/downloads/BIOLOGICAL%20report%208-28-08.pdf>

US Govt to pay 14,000 for each dose of experimental anthrax treatment

9 September 2008

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2008\\_9\\_9.html#E5AB272F](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_9.html#E5AB272F)

## Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

Report on the US Government's 'Air Travel Restrictions for Public Health Purposes'

19 September 2008

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5737a1.htm>

'Germ lab took early precautions as (Hurricane) Ike neared'

16 September 2008

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6005618.html>

The UTMB website suggests they lost emergency power and have been packing freezers with dry ice:  
<http://www.utmb.edu/news/research.power.asp>  
<http://utmbinfo.com/2008/09/15/update-research-services-9-pm-mon-sept-15/>  
<http://utmbinfo.com/2008/09/14/update-730-pm-sunday-september-14/>

'Designer DNA firms step up security over bioterrorism threat'

15 September 2008

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/being-human/mg19926733.500-dna-firms-step-up-security-over-bioterrorism-threat.html>

'Do we need synthetic bioethics?'

12 September 2008

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/321/5895/1449>

Report on designer DNA-binding proteins (some synthetic biology relevance)

12 September 2008

<http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080910/full/455160a.html>

'Synthetic biology: the new and not so new aspects of this emerging research field' (Thank you to Patricia Gray)

22 August 2008

<http://www.nature.com/embor/journal/v9/n9/full/embor2008159.html>

### Global Health Governance

Report on the efficacy of automatic outbreak reporting

17 September 2008

<http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/10/pdfs/07-1354.pdf>

Short comment on the political economy of promoting the use of malaria drugs which minimise resistance

12 September 2008

[http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/09/amfm\\_not\\_just\\_a\\_radi.php](http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2008/09/amfm_not_just_a_radi.php)

'Coordination and accountability in the World Health Assembly'

6 September 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608613343/>

and the author's reply:

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608613355/>

'Dealing with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Africa'

6 September 2008

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608613227/>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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