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From: Jonathan Herington [Jonathan.Herington@foa.anu.edu.au]
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 National Centre for Biosecurity


BIOSECURITY NEWS 19

13 February 2009

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

 Centre for International Security Studies

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1. Program News*2nd Annual Biosecurity Symposium*

The 2nd Annual Biosecurity Symposium was held on 9-10 February 2009 at The University of Sydney. A full report from the Directors of the NCB will be available shortly, however I think participants would agree that it was an interesting and diverse colloquium. I would like to thank the speakers and other participants for making the presentations and discussions such a joy to witness.

For those who were unable to attend I attach the conference booklet containing speakers' abstracts.

Feedback

We are, as always, interested in hearing your feedback regarding the Symposium, this newsletter and the National Centre for Biosecurity more broadly. Constructive criticism is very much encouraged. If you have any comments, please don't hesitate to contact me (j.herington@econ.usyd.edu.au) or Dr Christian Enemark (c.enemark@econ.usyd.edu.au)

Jon

2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues

The National Research Council and the American Association for the Advancement of Science have released A *Survey of Attitudes and Actions on Dual Use Research in the Life Sciences*. A pre-publication version of the report is available for purchase and can also be viewed for free online at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12460. Commentaries on the survey can be found in the 'Biosecurity Policy and Ethics' section of this fortnight's news items.

A special issue of the journal *Science and Engineering Ethics* (Volume 15, Issue 1) has been released and contains a number of articles which deal implicitly and explicitly with the dual-use dilemma. Accessed at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/u4580637486x/?p=ae9ee0e19519411e93cec73e1bc4a4cd&pi=0>

Previous Announcements

- *7th ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting*. Conference: **22-25 February 2009** in Baltimore, United States. More info: <http://www.asmbiodefense.org/Abstracts.asp>
- The Department of International Politics at the University of Aberystwyth, Wales is inviting applications for a 3-year studentship to undertake a PhD within the area of Global Health Governance. Applications due to Professor Colin McInnes by **23 February 2009**. Further information is available via the attached PDF.
- 2010 Brocher Stays Program. Researchers (including doctoral students) can apply for a one to six-month stay at the Brocher Foundation in Geneva. Proposal deadline: **2 March 2009**. More information: www.brocher.ch or contact scientificprog@brocher.ch
- *Rethinking Global Health: Political and practical challenges from foreign and security policy*. **10-11 March 2009** at Chatham House in London. More info: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/global_health/
- *Genetics and Genomics of Infectious Disease*. Conference: **21-24 March 2009** in Singapore. More info: <http://www.nature.com/natureconferences/ggid2009/>
- 3rd International Conference on *Influenza Vaccines for the World*. Conference: **27-30 April 2009** in Cannes, France. More info: http://www.meetingsmanagement.com/ivw_2009/index.htm
- *Communicable Diseases Control (CDC) Conference*. **4-6 May 2009** in Canberra. More information: www.diseases.consec.com.au
- US Department of State's **Biosecurity Engagement Program** provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information: <http://www.bepstate.net/index.html>

3. News and Articles

Pandemic and Avian Influenza

'A single immunization with HA DNA vaccine by electroporation induces early protection against H5N1 in mice'
12 February 2009
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/9/17>

'Puzzling questions over Panasonic's decision to bring overseas employees home because of bird flu fears'
10 February 2009
<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/panflu/news/feb1009panasonic-br.html>

Nature reports an important new study into a potential ant-influenza drug target (the PA endonuclease)
9 February 2009
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature07745.html>

And a lay explanation of the study's significance from the public health blog *Effect Measure*:
http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/02/how_the_flu_virus_performs_cap.php

'Experts investigate China's human H5N1 cases'

7 February 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609601537/fulltext>

'Estimation of Transmission Parameters of H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus in Chickens'

30 January 2009

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000281>

HIV

'HIV/AIDS Funding and Human Resource for Health'

12 February 2009

http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2009/02/climbing_a_mountain.php

'Funding for HIV/AIDS needs to double to ensure universal access to drugs'

11 February 2009

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/feb11_1/b583

Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

Dengue fever outbreak still ongoing in far north Queensland

13 February 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/13/2490456.htm>

Type 2 virus now circulating:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/02/12/2489728.htm>

and a commentary by NCB member Peter Curson:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24981091-23289,00.html>

'International Groups Battle Cholera in Zimbabwe'

13 February 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5916/86>

and commentary from *The Lancet*

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609601513/fulltext>

'Plan to Combat XDR-TB: Recommendations of the Federal Tuberculosis Task Force'

13 February 2009

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5803a1.htm>

'Tuberculosis Drug Resistance Mutation Database'

10 February 2009

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000002>

'Filipino tests positive for Ebola, experts worried'

23 January 2009

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKTRE50M29F20090123>

Biological Weapons

'USAMRIID halts work at lab after finding untracked material'

13 February 2009

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090210_1628.php

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5916/861>

Mice carcasses infected with *Y. pestis* 'missing' from lab (believed to have been accidentally destroyed)

9 February 2009

<http://www.fas.org/blog/ssp/2009/02/plague-infected-mice-missing-from-umdnj-lab.php>

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,489595,00.html>

Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

Replacement for ageing UK animal health lab delayed

10 February 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090210/full/457769a.html>

The iGEM genetic engineering competition starts a 'non-institutional' division

9 February 2009

<http://diybio.org/2009/02/09/diyigem/>
http://2009.igem.org/Non-traditional_teams

'Life scientists surveyed on dual-use research and bioterrorism'
 5 February 2009

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20090205.html>

Commentaries:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn16539-fears-over-bioterrorism-may-be-stifling-scientific-research.html>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5915/699>

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090206_9929.php

Full report from US National Academies:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12460

'Rise of the garage genome hackers'

7 January 2009

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg20126881.400-rise-of-the-garage-genome-hackers.html>

Global Health Governance and Disease Control

Neglected diseases receive \$34m funding boost (Bill and Melinda Gates Found.)

11 February 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090211/full/457772a.html>

'Some Neglected Diseases Are More Neglected Than Others'

6 February 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/323/5915/700>

and the full report:

<http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000030>

'Plague and theatre in ancient Athens'

31 January 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609601239/fulltext>

'Bridging the divide: global governance of trade and health'

31 January 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673608617766/abstract>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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