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**BIOSECURITY NEWS 26**

5 June 2009

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

**1. Program News**

My sincerest apologies for skipping a fortnightly issue on 22 May; travel commitments made compiling an issue infeasible. This issue covers the last month's news, and as such, may be a little longer than usual.

Jon

**2. Conferences, Seminars and Journal Issues**

The "NHMRC is calling for public health and medical research proposals that aim to rapidly inform and advance Australian strategies to prevent, prepare for and respond to a potential H1N1 Influenza pandemic and inform the development of public policy." Deadline for proposals is **5pm 22 June 2009**. More information: <http://nhmrc.gov.au/grants/types/granttype/strategic/influenza09.htm>

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The UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences calls for nominations for the **Avicenna Prize 2009**. The prize includes \$10,000 and a scientific visit to the Republic of Iran. "Candidates shall have contributed to high-quality research in the field of **ethics of science and technology**. Prizes may be conferred upon individuals, institutions, other entities or non-governmental organizations." The deadline for submission of proposals is **15 July 2009**. More information: [http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=12800&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12800&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

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The University of Sussex is advertising for a **part-time Research Fellow** to participate in their Harvard Sussex Program on Chemical and Biological Weapons. Applications close **12 June 2009**. More information: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/staffing/personnel/vacs/vac577.shtml>

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 The **62<sup>nd</sup> World Health Assembly** took place from 18-22 May in Geneva. Discussions centered around the current H1N1 pandemic as well as primary health care and the implementation of the 2005 International Health Regulations. Full information can be found at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2009/wha62/en/index.html>

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**Previous Announcements**

- The Lancet Infectious Diseases and The Lancet are organising a conference and special issue on influenza in the Asia-Pacific region. Conference: **21-23 August, 2009** in Qingdao, China. More info: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909700829/>
- *Global Biosecurity 2010: safeguarding agriculture and the environment* in Brisbane, Australia. Abstracts: **31 July 2009**. Conference: **28 February – 3 March 2010**. More info: [www.globalbiosecurity2010.com](http://www.globalbiosecurity2010.com)
- 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. Special Coverage: H1N1 Influenza A

*The novel H1N1 Influenza A outbreak affecting multiple countries receives special attention below. Some stories have been sourced to either the ABC (Australian Broadcast Corporation) or BBC online news sites because of their persistence over long periods of time and the continuity of their coverage. Readers seeking references to traditional print-based media should endeavour to search the online archives of their preferred news outlet using the key terms and dates gathered here.*

#### Official Sources

The latest information update from the WHO:  
[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009\\_06\\_05/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_05/en/index.html)

Latest CDC update:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>  
 and  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

WHO interactive timeline:  
[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/interactive\\_map/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/interactive_map/en/index.html)

Full list of guidance information from WHO:  
<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/en/index.html>

#### National Response Sites:

Australia: <http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/>

Canada: [http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine\\_200904-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alerte/swine_200904-eng.php)

European Union: [http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/Health\\_topics/novel\\_influenza\\_virus/2009\\_Outbreak/](http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/Health_topics/novel_influenza_virus/2009_Outbreak/)

New Zealand: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/mexican-swine-influenza-update-270409>

Singapore: <http://www.crisis.gov.sg/FLU/InfluenzaA/>

United Kingdom: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1240732817665?p=1240732817665>

United States: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

#### Epidemiology, Disease Progression and Impact

*Science* magazine's timeline of events  
 3 June 2009  
<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/06/swine-flu-outbr.html>

High numbers of cases in Australian state of Victoria (possible community-wide transmission)  
 29 May 2009  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/29/2584998.htm>

'Geographic Dependence, Surveillance, and Origins of the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Virus'  
 27 May 2009  
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMp0904572>

'Swine flu attention turns to the tropics'  
 27 May 2009  
<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090527/full/459490a.html>

'Number of confirmed swine flu cases could be "tip of iceberg"

26 May 2009

[http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may26\\_3/b2153](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may26_3/b2153)

US government orders almost \$1 billion in H1N1 vaccines

22 May 2009

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/05/20090522b.html>

and more facts:

<https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/BARDA/MCM/panflu/factsheet.aspx>

<https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/BARDA/MCM/panflu/nextsteps.aspx>

Genetic analysis of H1N1 Influenza A circulating in humans (*Science*)

22 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5931/1127>

And the full paper:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/rapidpdf/1176225.pdf>

'Late seasonal flu accompanying swine flu?'

17 May 2009

[http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/05/late\\_seasonal\\_flu\\_accompanying.php](http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/05/late_seasonal_flu_accompanying.php)

WHO concludes laboratory-origin of H1N1 unlikely

16 May 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/15/2572085.htm>

Preliminary analysis of H1N1 reproductive rate – contradicts initial Ferguson results

14 May 2009

<http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=19205>

and the original account published in *Science* on May 11:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1176062>

'Assessing the severity of an influenza pandemic'

11 May 2009

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/assess/disease\\_swineflu\\_assess\\_20090511/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/assess/disease_swineflu_assess_20090511/en/index.html)

## Response

'US ramps up swine flu protection' (vaccine production technologies)

4 June 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090603/full/news.2009.543.html>

'New dollars and critique lobbed at swine flu response'

4 June 2009

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/06/new-dollars-and.html>

And the original report from Trust for America's Health:

<http://healthyamericans.org/report/64/pandemic-flu-frontlines>

Australian Senator accuses government of 'scare campaign'

3 June 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/03/2588697.htm>

'Cruise ship turned away (from New Caledonia) amid flu fears'

2 June 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/02/2586888.htm>

Australian cruise ship allowed to dock in Sydney, after extensive coverage and quarantining of 2000 passengers

30 May 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/30/2585301.htm>

and

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/31/2585521.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/29/2584380.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/28/2583699.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/26/2580617.htm>

'Hotel evicts swine flu sufferers'

29 May 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/29/2584200.htm>

Unions, Govts in talks on 'Quarantine Pay'

29 May 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/30/2585236.htm>

'Spread of swine flu puts Japan in crisis mode'

22 May 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/22/world/asia/22japan.html>

Summary of final IGM on pandemic preparedness and WHA

22 May 2009

<http://www.ip-watch.org/weblog/2009/05/22/world-health-assembly-finds-way-forward-on-pandemic-flu/>

'Influenza A (H1N1) Virus, 2009 — Online Monitoring'

21 May 2009

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/21/2156>

'Parents worried about swine flu, flock to ER'

21 May 2009

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/22/nyregion/22er.html>

'Swine Flu Spreads in Japan, Despite Quarantine Inspections'

20 May 2009

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/19/AR2009051900364.html>

'Swine flu outbreak reveals military plans, gaps'

20 May 2009

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jN8GvBVLVABijW7-1V8NIW5nSx\\_wD989QTF82](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jN8GvBVLVABijW7-1V8NIW5nSx_wD989QTF82)

'Flu Researchers Train Sights On Novel Tricks of Novel H1N1'

15 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5929/870>

Interview with influenza virus seed-vaccine producer (US WHO Collaborating Centre)

14 May 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090514/full/news.2009.482.html>

### Commentary and Editorials

*The Lancet* discusses the cultural and etymological significance of 'pandemic'

6 June 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609610539/fulltext>

'Air travel at your own risk'

4 June 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/04/2589242.htm>

The Lancet Infectious Diseases discusses scientific uncertainty and media hype in the current outbreak

1 June 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473309909701343/fulltext>

'Managing and Reducing Uncertainty in an Emerging Influenza Pandemic'

27 May 2009

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/NEJMp0904380>

WHO under pressure to rewrite pandemic requirement

22 May 2009

[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090525/pandemic\\_090525/20090525](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090525/pandemic_090525/20090525)

Related comments:

[http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/05/swine\\_flu\\_who\\_and\\_its\\_pandemic.php](http://scienceblogs.com/effectmeasure/2009/05/swine_flu_who_and_its_pandemic.php)

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/05/pandemic-defini.html>

'Epidemic science in real-time'

22 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5930/987>

'Past pandemics provide mixed clues to H1N1's next moves'

22 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5930/996>

'The problem with flu vaccines'

21 May 2009

[http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may21\\_3/b2065](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may21_3/b2065)

Two editorials on communication strategies and policy responses to H1N1 influenza from *Nature*

20 May 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v459/n7245/full/459324a.html>

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v459/n7245/full/459322a.html>

'When will that swine flu vaccine be ready?'

20 May 2009

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/05/when-will-that.html>

'Concerns over WHO pandemic justified' (WHO Director General's comments to 62nd WHA)

18 May 2009

[http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2009/62nd\\_assembly\\_address\\_20090518/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/dg/speeches/2009/62nd_assembly_address_20090518/en/index.html)

'Governments must be pulled up for failings over flu'

15 May 2009

[http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may15\\_2/b2019](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may15_2/b2019)

'The Price of a Pandemic' (*Nature Microbiology* on the financial crisis and Influenza H1N1)

15 May 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nrmicro/journal/v7/n6/full/nrmicro2162.html>

'Swine Flu Names Evolving Faster Than Swine Flu Itself'

15 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5929/871>

#### 4. News and Articles

##### Pandemic and Avian Influenza

*The following reports and studies relate to avian influenza and pandemic influenza in general, for information specific to currently circulating H1N1 Influenza, see above*

'Computational tools evolve to reveal patterns in flu data'

5 June 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v15/n6/full/nm0609-587.html>

Egypt confirms another human H5N1 case

2 June 2009

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009\\_06\\_02/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_06_02/en/index.html)

'Hedging against Antiviral Resistance during the Next Influenza Pandemic Using Small Stockpiles of an Alternative Chemotherapy'

22 May 2009

<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000085>

'Human noses too cold for bird flu'

14 May 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8050523.stm>

and the original report:

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1000424>

##### HIV

'Projecting the Future Budgetary Cost of AIDS Treatment' (Software Package and Data Set for DIY calcs.)

5 June 2009

<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2009/06/projecting-the-future-budgetary-cost-of-aids-treatment-manual-software-package-and-data-set.php>

'Will to live: AIDS therapies and the politics of survival'

30 May 2009

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a911831983>

'The invisible cure: Africa, the West and the fight against AIDS'

30 May 2009

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a911735931>

'Obama plans to make the US emergency AIDS plan a sustainable programme'

19 May 2009

[http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may19\\_1/b2022](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/short/338/may19_1/b2022)

'The dangers of denying HIV'

13 May 2009

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v459/n7244/full/459168a.html>

## Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

'The Global Burden of Tuberculosis — Combating Drug Resistance in Difficult Times'

4 June 2009

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/23/2393>

'Epidemiology of antituberculosis drug resistance 2002—07'

30 May 2009

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609603317/abstract>

'Kissing can be dangerous: the public health campaigns to prevent Tuberculosis in Western Australia: 1900-1960'

30 May 2009

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content-db=all-content=a911116634>

New viral hemorrhagic fever, Lujo Virus, linked to South African deaths in early 2009

29 May 2009

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.ppat.1000455>

'Zimbabwe cholera cases set to top 100,000'

27 May 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/27/2581630.htm>

## Biological Weapons

US department of defense report on safety and security at its biological labs

26 May 2009

[http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/reports/2009-05-Bio\\_Safety.pdf](http://www.acq.osd.mil/dsb/reports/2009-05-Bio_Safety.pdf)

NSABB report on 'Strategies for managing dual-use research of concern'

20 May 2009

[http://oba.od.nih.gov/biosecurity/PDF/Report%20from%203rd%20Rt\\_Final\\_18%20May%202009.pdf](http://oba.od.nih.gov/biosecurity/PDF/Report%20from%203rd%20Rt_Final_18%20May%202009.pdf)

'Do U.S. biodefense efforts need systems analysis?'

18 May 2009

<http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/columnists/malcolm-dando/do-us-biodefense-efforts-need-systems-analysis>

Microbiologist arrested for smuggling materials into US

14 May 2009

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/05/microbiologist.html>

and

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090520/full/459311a.html>

## Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

Comment on the possibility of DIY stem cells

3 June 2009

<http://www.synthesis.cc/2009/06/another-step-toward-diystemcells.html>

Synthetic Biology: creation of a gene network which counts

29 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5931/1199>

*Science* editorial on the review of US biosecurity regulations currently underway

29 May 2009

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5931/1117>

A good summary of the review is listed under 'additional information' at:

<http://cstsp.aaas.org/BiosecurityComment.html>

Interactive map of institutions involved in synthetic biology

27 May 2009

<http://www.synbioproject.org/library/inventories/map/>

New US transport regulations for pathogens

14 May 2009

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2009/05/regs-could-jeop.html>

And the guidelines (soon to be regulations):

[http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/tsai\\_app\\_a\\_hssm\\_sai.pdf](http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/tsai_app_a_hssm_sai.pdf)

'Synthetic biology gets ethical'

12 May 2009

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090512/full/news.2009.464.html>

*The Wall Street Journal* on DIY biology  
12 May 2009  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124207326903607931.html>

#### **Global Health Governance and Disease Control**

'Towards a common definition of global health'  
6 June 2009  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609603329/fulltext>

'Case studies in global health'  
30 May 2009  
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content--content=a911744252>

'Digital disease detection – harnessing the web for public health surveillance'  
21 May 2009  
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/short/360/21/2153>

Institute of Medicine releases report into the *US Commitment to Global Health*  
20 May 2009  
<http://www.iom.edu/CMS/3783/51303/67183.aspx>  
Summary and comment:  
<http://blogs.cgdev.org/globalhealth/2009/05/institute-of-medicine-releases-report-on-us-commitment-to-global-health.php>

Policy forum on the cholera crisis in Africa  
15 May 2009  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5929/885>

New York MDR-TB doctor to head CDC  
15 May 2009  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/15/health/policy/15cdc.html>  
And comment:  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140673609610424/fulltext>

'Global Health Actors Claim To Support Health System Strengthening—Is This Reality or Rhetoric?'  
28 April 2009  
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000059>

Best wishes and happy researching,

Jon

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