From: Alexis Pillsbury
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BIOSECURITY NEWS 34

13 November 2009

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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

Dr Michael Charleston of the School of Information & Technologies at the University of Sydney has been awarded a prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant for his project *Modelling disease evolution and emergence*.

Summary: Approximately 75% of all emergent diseases have established in humans having switched from other species: HIV, malaria, SARS, Ebola, West Nile virus and many more. Further, cross species infections put our biodiversity and economy at risk: plant and animal diseases entering Australia can destroy crops and at-risk native species. This project will provide for the first time the statistical framework for scientists to assess risk of such diseases entering Australia as a key to combating them.

Congratulations to Dr Charleston.

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Regarding the 3rd Annual Biosecurity Symposium, which will be held at the Australian National University on 1 – 2 February 2010, please note that the **deadline for abstracts has been extended to 30 November 2009**. The National Centre for Biosecurity invites proposals for presentations addressing the theme ***Global Health Security*** in one or more of the following areas:

- Responding to infectious disease crises in Australia and the Asia-Pacific
- The epidemiology of public health and animal health emergencies
- The development and use of biological weapons by state and non-state actors
- Ethical dilemmas and security risks of research on pathogenic micro-organisms
- International law and domestic regulation

- Relevance and applications of new technologies to biosecurity challenges
- Ethical, social and cultural dimensions of biosecurity

Abstracts (200 words maximum) should be emailed to Jon Herington, Executive Officer at the National Centre for Biosecurity, Australian National University.

Registration information will be circulated soon. Enquiries may be directed to Jon Herington (Jonathan.Herington@anu.edu.au) or Alexis Pillsbury (a.pillsbury@econ.usyd.edu.au).

Kind regards,

Alexis Pillsbury

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2. Seminars, Conferences and Journal Issues

On Wednesday 25 November 2009, the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology-Public Health (CIDM-PH), University of Sydney, is hosting a one-day seminar on *Pandemic Influenza: what happened last winter?* It will outline how the H1N1 pandemic unfolded in Australia and NSW, its effects on various medical services, the laboratory issues identified during the pandemic, and infection control and vaccination. The seminar will be held in Lecture Theatre 3, Westmead Education & Conference Centre, Westmead Hospital.

For more information on speakers, program and registration, please visit the CIDM-PH website or contact Lou Orszulak.
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The current issue (Nov 2009, vol 52) of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* (JAIDS) contains a special supplement on 'HIV scale-up and global health systems'.
- - - - -
The current issue (Nov/Dec 2009, vol 28, no 6) of *Health Affairs* contains a special double focus on 'Meeting HIV costs; fighting neglected diseases'.

Previous Announcements

- *Global Biosecurity 2010: safeguarding agriculture and the environment* will be held in Brisbane, Australia, on 28 February – 3 March 2010. More information
- The International Society for Infectious Diseases is organising the *14th International Congress on Infectious Diseases* (ICID) in Miami, Florida, USA, on 9 – 12 March 2010. More information
- The Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) International Symposium and Workshop is taking place from 12 – 14 April 2010 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme for the Symposium and Workshop is *Integrating Science and Management*. More information
- The US Department of State's Biosecurity Engagement Program provides funding for travel to biosecurity-related conferences. More information

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3. Special Coverage: H1N1 Influenza Pandemic 2009

WHO Updates and Reports

- **Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – update 73** (6 November 2009)
- **Weekly update (virological surveillance data)** (6 November 2009)
- **'Experts advise WHO on pandemic vaccine policies and strategies'** (30 October 2009)
- **'Infection of farmed animals with the pandemic virus'** (5 November 2009)

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Epidemiology, Disease Progression and Impact

'Global jump in swine flu deaths'
BBC

30 October 2009

'Flu dogma being rewritten by a strange virus no one pegged to trigger a pandemic'
The Canadian Press
4 November 2009

'Pandemic influenza as 21st century urban public health crisis'
Emerging Infectious Diseases (CDC)
4 November 2009

'It could surge again: officials warn against complacency about H1N1 shot'
The Canadian Press
9 November 2009

'Swine flu: one killer virus, three key questions'
Nature
11 November 2009

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Response

'Why such a shortage of swine flu vaccine?' (US)
The Washington Post
27 October 2009

'Saudis try to head off swine flu fears before hajj'
The New York Times
29 October 2009

'US releases its stockpile of Tamiflu for children'
The New York Times
30 October 2009

'Flu fears and rumours paralyze Ukraine'
The Globe and Mail
9 November 2009
(See also WHO's Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Ukraine update, 3 November 2009)

'China's tough flu measures appear to be effective'
The New York Times
11 November 2009

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Commentary

'Flu-shot impatience: let's try a dose of reality'
The Globe and Mail
4 November 2009

'A new perspective on preventing an epidemic: how H1N1 compares to SARS and the Nipah virus' (Blog)
Children's Hospital Boston
9 November 2009

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4. News and Articles

HIV

'In celebrated reversal, a South African president finally confronts country's HIV/AIDS epidemic'
Science
29 October 2009

'Kenya to launch homosexual census'
BBC
29 October 2009

'Beyond Thailand: making sense of a qualified AIDS vaccine "success"'
Science
30 October 2009

'Obama lifts a ban on entry Into US by HIV-positive people'
The New York Times
30 October 2009

'SA's parentless families: a beggar's life'
BBC
30 October 2009

'Researchers come together to study natural HIV resistance'
Nature
5 November 2009

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Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

'Outfoxing pox: developing a new class of vaccine candidates'
Insciences
20 October 2009

'The application of genomics to emerging zoonotic viral diseases'
PLoS Pathogens
29 October 2009

'The past and future of tuberculosis research'
PLoS Pathogens
29 October 2009

'Scientists claim Hendra virus breakthrough'
ABC News
31 October 2009

'Initiative targets malaria eradication'
Nature
3 November 2009

'Pakistan: polio vaccination: one hurdle down, one more to go'
Inter Press Service
3 November 2009

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Biological Weapons

''Anthrax bomb' answers demanded'
BBC
30 October 2009

'The other Berlin Wall: how the Soviet bioweapons program was revealed'
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
9 November 2009

'Bringing increased biological and chemical weapons provisions to the ICC'
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
11 November 2009

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Biosecurity Policy and Ethics

'The role of genomics in the identification, prediction, and prevention of biological threats'
PLoS Biology
26 October 2009

'Gene-makers put forward security standards'
Nature
4 November 2009

'Containing risk' (Editorial)
Nature
11 November 2009

'European biosafety labs set to grow'
Nature
11 November 2009

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Global Health Governance and Disease Control

'A low-key summit with high-key potential'
Center for Global Development, Global Health Policy Blog
9 November 2009

'Defeating rotavirus? The global recommendation for rotavirus vaccination'
NEJM
12 November 2009

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Best wishes and happy researching,

Alexis

If you received this email as a forward and wish to subscribe to future issues of Biosecurity News, please contact Alexis Pillsbury (a.pillsbury@econ.usyd.edu.au)

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