



# Capsule

Ed Krisiunas

WNWN International, Burlington, Connecticut

## BBC Presents Docudrama on Smallpox

On February 5, the BBC broadcast "Smallpox 2002," a fictionalized account of the spread of the killer virus. It covered the first deaths in contemporary New York to an eventual global pandemic killing 60 million people.

Some of the world's leading experts on bioterrorism, such as Dr. D. A. Henderson of the Centers for Disease Control, were closely involved in the making of the drama. Set in 2005, the drama contains fictional interviews with those involved in controlling the outbreak and news reports of the disaster.

[www.bbc.co.uk/drama/smallpox2002](http://www.bbc.co.uk/drama/smallpox2002)

## President Boosts Nation's "Biodefense" Budget

President George Bush announced on February 5, 2002 that he is requesting \$6 billion for domestic defense against the threat of bioterrorism.

The goal, the President said, is to make "America as safe as it can possibly be." His fiscal 2003 budget request to Congress on February 4 included \$5.9 billion for biodefense, an increase of \$4.5 billion from the 2002 level. White House officials say the increase is intended to improve infrastructure, response efforts, and scientific research and development.

The additional funds also include \$2.4 billion to develop new test protocols and new treatments for bioterror weapons, the President said. He noted that the University of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie Mellon Institute have launched the Biomedical Security Institute to help protect the nation from "the insidious biological attack."

<http://www.ntcgl.navy.mil/index.html>

## Lessons Learned from Fire at UC-Santa Cruz Lab

On January 11, 2002 a fire ravaged two labs at the University of California, Santa Cruz, knocking out power and shutting down multiple buildings. The Sinsheimer building where the fire occurred remains closed, displacing approximately 150 researchers who are now scrambling to assess the damage, find new lab space, and salvage whatever is possible.

"The upper floor, where the real devastation occurred, is not likely to be back to normal use for 6 to 8 months," says Elizabeth Irwin, Director of the UC-Santa Cruz Public Information Office.

David Silberman, Director of the Health and Safety Programs at Stanford University School of Medicine, is quoted: "In order to prevent losses, the first thing researchers can do is take a look at how they back up existing data, whether it is electronic or biological. Backing up electronic data does not mean just copying it onto a disk and storing it in your drawer. It really needs to be off site and that is pretty easy—you can take it home or there are companies that store data. With biological materials, it is a little trickier. People have been known to work out arrangements [to store biological materials] with colleagues on the East Coast or in the Midwest, especially if there is a collaboration going on." He added that "unlike electronic data, it might be unwise for researchers to store infectious material at home."

[http://www.the-scientist.com/yr2002/feb/index\\_020204.html](http://www.the-scientist.com/yr2002/feb/index_020204.html) (Feb. 4, 2002)

## OSHA Reopens Tuberculosis Rulemaking Record

### Limited reopening will focus on final risk assessment

WASHINGTON—The Occupational Safety and Health Administration on January 24, 2002 reopened for 60 days the tuberculosis (TB) rulemaking record to give interested persons the opportunity to review and comment on the agency's final risk assessment and the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) report, "Tuberculosis in the Workplace."

Persons wishing to comment should send two copies of comments, postmarked no later than March 25, 2002, to: Docket Office, Docket H-371, Room N-2625, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210.

The notice soliciting comment is published in the January 24, 2002 *Federal Register*.

<http://www.osha.gov/media/oshnews/jan02/trade-20020124.html>

**IMPORTANT ..... IMPORTANT ..... IMPORTANT ..... IMPORTANT**

A change of address notice should be sent at least six weeks in advance to the ABSA National Office to ensure that all mailings, including the journal and newsletter, will reach you. ABSA is not responsible for misrouted mail as a result of insufficient notification of an address change. Undelivered copies resulting from an insufficient address change notification will not be replaced, but single issues may be purchased at the single issue price.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

Old Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP +4 \_\_\_\_\_

NEW PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_