



Capsule

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What's new; what's hot, what's timely? If you don't have time to search the Internet for the latest developments that might impact your work environment, you just might find some of this information in this Capsule column. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to Ed Krisiunas at ekrisiunas@aol.com or to the Editor, Ira Salkin, at irasalkin@aol.com.

News from the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, April 25, 2002

An updated version of the NIH *Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules* has been posted on the OBA web site and is available at <http://www4.od.nih.gov/oba/rac/guidelines/guidelines.html>.

The PDF version of the NIH *Guidelines* is fully indexed and includes hyperlinks from the index headers to the corresponding portion in the document, greatly facilitating referencing and navigation. The April 2002 version of the NIH *Guidelines* includes recent changes in NIH safety reporting requirements, as well as recent amendments modifying the Recombinant Advisory Committee (RAC) membership provisions and establishing criteria for designating strains of *E. coli* as risk group 1 agents. For more information, please contact Allan C. Shipp, Director of Outreach, NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities, 301-435-2152 or via e-mail at shippa@od.nih.gov.

Montana Lab May Lead Bioterror Defense

A laboratory in Montana's Bitterroot Mountains is on track to become the federal government's fourth

Biosafety Level 4 research facility, handling the world's most dangerous microbes to help develop defenses against bioterrorism.

Rocky Mountain Laboratories, a part of the National Institutes of Health pioneered research into Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme Disease. It now has been approved for a \$66 million expansion for bioterrorism research, including upgrades to the maximum-security level. It will be the only Level 4 lab in the Western United States. (From April 28, 2002 Associated Press article by Susan Gallagherr.) Find more information on bioterrorism at <http://www.nih.gov>.

Protecting the Worksite Against Terrorism: Anthrax

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has added a link to its web site that focuses on protecting employees against anthrax. The web site includes information on anthrax, routes of exposure, prevention and control of infection, frequently ask questions, and an "Anthrax Matrix." This matrix was developed to offer basic advice and suggest protective measures that OSHA believes will reduce the risk of exposure in light of current concerns about the presence of anthrax spores in the workplace. However, this matrix is not intended to establish a legal standard of care with respect to anthrax spores in the workplace. These recommendations do not impose and are not intended to result in the imposition of any new legal obligations or constraints on employers or the states. Find out more information on the Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/bioterrorism/anthrax/index.html>.

Chronic Wasting Disease Discovered in Deer

The State of Wisconsin is preparing to battle Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) after discovering the disease on February 28 in three deer that were killed near Mount Horeb during last Fall's hunt. CWD is believed to be related to mad cow disease, and its discovery has cast uncertainty over deer hunting and the safety of eating venison. After killing and testing more than 500 deer in the area, the Department of Natural

Resources (DNR) found an additional 11 that tested positive for the fatal brain disease.

Two legislative committees have voted to approve a \$4 million financial package that will allow the DNR and the Agriculture Department to fund an eradication plan. For more information, see:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/index.htm>

and

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/cwd>

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