



## 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 have an impact on your work environment, chances are you just might find some of this information in the "Capsule" column. Please e-mail any comments or suggestions to [ekrisiunas@aol.com](mailto:ekrisiunas@aol.com) or to the Journal Editors.

### **HHS Announces New Regional Centers for Biodefense Research**

Thursday, September 4, 2003

#### **From the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease**

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson today announced grants totaling approximately \$350 million spread over five years to establish eight Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (RCE). This nationwide group of multidisciplinary centers is a key element in HHS's strategic plan for biodefense research. [http://www.niaid.nih.gov/newsroom/releases/HHS\\_RCE.HTM](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/newsroom/releases/HHS_RCE.HTM).

### **NIAID Funds Construction of Biosafety Laboratories**

Tuesday, September 30, 2003

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, today announced funding for the construction of two National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs) and nine Regional Biocontainment Laboratories (RBLs). "These awards to build high-level biosafety facilities are a major step towards being able to

provide Americans with effective therapies, vaccines and diagnostics for diseases caused by agents of bioterror as well as for naturally occurring emerging infections such as SARS and West Nile virus," says Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson. <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/newsroom/releases/nblscorrect21.htm>.

### **CDC Releases Draft Version of New SARS Plan**

October 20, 2003

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted the working draft version of its "Public Health Guidance for Community-Level Preparedness and Response to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)," on its web site.

The SARS Plan is a working document that outlines the concepts and strategies that will guide the U.S. response in the event of a SARS outbreak. It also describes many of the activities needed at the federal, state, and local levels to prepare for and respond rapidly and decisively to a reemergence of SARS. State and local health departments, hospitals, and other public health providers will have an opportunity to comment on the draft and provide input for an effective SARS preparedness plan for the United States.

The plan is designed to assist federal, state, and local public health partners in developing or coordinating their own SARS preparedness and response planning activities, while taking into account available healthcare and public health resources, and other factors that are unique at each level.

The plan was prepared in close collaboration with domestic and international partners, and incor-

porates many of the concepts and approaches that were successfully used to contain SARS outbreaks in the United States and other countries with more widespread outbreaks. In addition, it integrates and builds on other preparedness and response plans for SARS (e.g., U.S. Government Interagency SARS Concept of Operations Plan) and for other public health emergencies, such as pandemic influenza and bioterrorism. The plan will be updated regularly and can be implemented immediately should SARS re-emerge. For more information about the SARS Plan, visit CDC's web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/sarsprepplan.htm> or contact the Office of Communication at 404-639-3286.

- Lister's antiseptic principle
- The value of penicillin
- *Helicobacter pylori*
- HIV transmission
- In-vitro fertilization
- Mad cow disease
- SARS as a coronavirus

For more information on THE LANCET Backfiles visit: <http://www.info.sciencedirect.com/backfiles/collections/lancet/index.shtml>.

### The Lancet Online

For the first time in medical history, researchers and scholars across the globe have the ability to search a historical archive of over 340,000 articles dating from THE LANCET'S inception in 1823. THE LANCET Backfiles are now available on ScienceDirect as fully searchable PDFs, supported by citations, abstracts, and references.

THE LANCET has published some of the first reports on such groundbreaking medical research as:


- The first caesarian performed under anesthesia

### Revised OSHA Form 300— Copies Are Now Available

In the December 17, 2002 *Federal Register* (67 FR 77165-77170), OSHA announced its decision to add an occupational hearing loss column to OSHA's Form 300, Log of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses. This forms package contains modified Forms 300 and 300A, which incorporate the additional column M (5) Hearing Loss.

Employers required to complete the injury and illness forms must begin to use these forms on January 1, 2004.

The revised forms can be found at the following web site: <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/new-osha300form1-1-04.pdf>.

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