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 ekrisiunas@aol.com or to Co-Editor Barbara Johnson at barbara_johnson@verizon.net or Co-Editor Karen B. Byers at karen_byers@dfci.harvard.edu.

Symposium on Infectious Diseases of Animals and Quarantine

Japan-Taiwan Symposium on Infectious Diseases of Animals and Quarantine

The Japan-Taiwan Symposium on Infectious Diseases of Animals and Quarantine, sponsored by the Japan Interchange Association, was held October 20-21, 2004 at the Sapporo Convention Center, Japan. The symposium focused mainly on human health and food safety. Issues that were discussed included:

1. Infectious diseases of animals that caused economic loss, and those diseases that threaten the health of companion animals
2. Infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans
3. Emerging infectious diseases that have been reported recently in world news, such as bovine spongiform encephalomyopathy and avian influenza
4. Animal quarantine measures to prevent the spread of the aforementioned diseases.

Challenges posed by infectious diseases of animals—past, present and future—were highlighted in the three plenary lectures.

Emerging Infectious Diseases, May, 2005: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol11no05/04-1348.htm

OSHA Completes Investigation and Issues Citations and Letter of Significant Findings and Recommendations in Boston University Biosafety Lab Case

Region 1 News Release Monday, May 9, 2005

BOSTON—The U.S. Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has completed its investigation of researcher exposure to tularemia bacteria at Boston University and Boston Medical Center, Evans Biomedical Research Center. Three employees became ill following their exposure to a highly infectious strain of the bacteria during the course of their work.


Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The Department of Homeland Security was formed as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. It has served to mobilize and organize the United States to secure it from terrorist attacks. One of the primary reasons for the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security was to provide the unifying core for the vast national network of organizations and institutions involved in efforts to secure the United States.

For more information in related to the DHS and areas such as emergencies and disasters, or research and technology, see www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/.