

7 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. ANTHRAX PROBE TO CLOSE AFTER SUSPECT'S DEATH: *"U.S. Army scientist Dr. Bruce Ivins was the only person responsible for the 2001 U.S. anthrax attacks that killed five people, and authorities will close the case, a federal prosecutor said on Wednesday."*

2. ALNYLAM TO RECEIVE \$7.5M MORE UNDER NIAID CONTRACT FOR RNAI DRUGS AGAINST HEMORRHAGIC FEVER: *"A greater than 95% decrease in viral titer was seen when an RNAi therapeutic targeting one of these genes, VP35, was administered to mice infected with Ebola."*

3. HOW BACTERIA ATTACH TO HUMAN TISSUES DURING INFECTION PROCESS: NEW CLUES: *"The researchers studied the way a protein found on the surface of the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* binds to a human protein called fibronectin."*

Chem-DeMil News

1. LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - OFFICIALS CONFIRM 2D MUSTARD GAS LEAK: *"Like the previous leak detected on July 28 at a separate storage igloo, the one found Wednesday at Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond was only a low concentration of the blister agent and not considered dangerous to the community or environment."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

ANTHRAX PROBE TO CLOSE AFTER SUSPECT'S DEATH

By James Vicini

Reuters

August 6, 2008

"U.S. Army scientist Dr. Bruce Ivins was the only person responsible for the 2001 U.S. anthrax attacks that killed five people, and authorities will close the case, a federal prosecutor said on Wednesday."

"The documents said that just before the 2001 anthrax attacks, Ivins sent an e-mail warning that Osama "bin Laden terrorists" had anthrax and sarin gas and included language similar to that in the anthrax letters.

The more than 100 pages of previously secret documents also said Ivins had a large flask of highly purified anthrax spores later found to match what was used in the letters.

The documents portrayed a man with paranoid fears, under pressure over a faltering

anthrax vaccine project, having multiple circumstantial links to the attacks and keeping a copy of "The Plague" by Albert Camus in his house."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0644608720080807>

ANALYST NOTE: The unsealed documents can be found at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/amerithrax/>

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ALNYLAM TO RECEIVE \$7.5M MORE UNDER NIAID CONTRACT FOR RNAI DRUGS AGAINST HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News
August 6, 2008

"The NIAID is committing to \$7.5 million in additional funding for Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. The existing contract with the company is focused on the development of a broad-spectrum RNAi antiviral against hemorrhagic fever virus including Ebola."

"A greater than 95% decrease in viral titer was seen when an RNAi therapeutic targeting one of these genes, VP35, was administered to mice infected with Ebola. Moreover, the VP35 siRNA as compared with a control nonspecific siRNA protected both mice and guinea pigs from lethal Ebola infection. This work was done in collaboration with Tekmira Pharmaceuticals using their lipid particle delivery formulation technology."

The full article can be found at: http://www.genengnews.com/news/bnitem_print.aspx?name=39950423

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HOW BACTERIA ATTACH TO HUMAN TISSUES DURING INFECTION PROCESS: NEW CLUES

ScienceDaily
August 7, 2008

"The researchers studied the way a protein found on the surface of the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* binds to a human protein called fibronectin. Their discovery is an important step in understanding how bacteria attach to the surface of blood vessels during infection.

The high-resolution structures of parts of the bacterial protein in complex with multiple fibronectin domains reveals the efficiency with which the bacterial molecule can bind several copies of the human protein, a feature thought to play a role in infection."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080806113143.htm>

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Chem-Demil News

LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT - OFFICIALS CONFIRM 2D MUSTARD GAS LEAK

Evansville Courier & Press

August 7, 2008

“Officials at a chemical weapons stockpile in Kentucky suspect rising summer temperatures are partly responsible for the second mustard gas leak in less than two weeks after the storage site went three years without one.

Like the previous leak detected on July 28 at a separate storage igloo, the one found Wednesday at Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond was only a low concentration of the blister agent and not considered dangerous to the community or environment.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2008/aug/07/depot-reports-mustard-gas-leak/?printer=1/>

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