

4 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. HAZMAT SCARE BRINGS FIRE DEPT. WHITE HOUSE: *"Around 1:00 a.m., a fire crew responded when a sensor-equipped shed in the area of the tennis courts registered some kind of chemical release, but no chemical spills or leaks were discovered."*

2. REPORT: THERAPIST FEARED ANTHRAX RESEARCHER: *"Social worker Jean Duley testified at a court hearing in Frederick on July 24 in a successful bid for a protective order from Ivins - who five days later committed suicide - that he "actually attempted to murder several other people."*

3. PALM-SIZED BIOSENSOR FOR POINT-OF-CARE AND FIELD APPLICATIONS: *"To be used as a biosensor, the gold surface is first covered by molecules that are antibody-specific to the target (antigen)."*

4. NEW DNA TECHNIQUE LED AUTHORITIES TO 'ANTHRAX KILLER': *"A new, previously unavailable DNA identification process led investigators to the Army scientist and alleged 2001 anthrax killer, who killed himself as authorities closed in on him, FOX News confirmed Sunday."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY: *"VX 8-inch 'projo' campaign over 50 percent complete."*

2. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - DEPOT DETECTS TRACES OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT VAPOR IN TWO IGLOOS DURING ROUTINE STORAGE AREA MONITORING:

"The vapor is likely due to leaking bulk containers."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HAZMAT SCARE BRINGS FIRE DEPT. WHITE HOUSE

NewsChannel8.net

August 4, 2008

"Around 1:00 a.m., a fire crew responded when a sensor-equipped shed in the area of the tennis courts registered some kind of chemical release, but no chemical spills or leaks were discovered. After securing the area, fire crews lefts around 3:00 a.m."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/0808/541113.html>

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REPORT: THERAPIST FEARED ANTHRAX RESEARCHER

NewsChannel8.net

August 3, 2008

"Bruce E. Ivins, the late microbiologist suspected in the 2001 anthrax attacks, had attempted to poison people and his therapist said she was "scared to death" of him, according to court testimony that emerged Saturday.

Social worker Jean Duley testified at a court hearing in Frederick on July 24 in a successful bid for a protective order from Ivins - who five days later committed suicide - that he "actually attempted to murder several other people."

"As far back as the year 2000, the respondent has actually attempted to murder several other people, either through poisoning. He is a revenge killer. When he feels that he's been slighted or has had - especially toward women - he plots and actually tries to carry out revenge killings," Duley said.

She added that Ivins "has been forensically diagnosed by several top psychiatrists as a sociopathic, homicidal killer. I have that in evidence. And through my working with him, I also believe that to be very true."

"Prosecutors were mulling this weekend whether to close the anthrax poisoning investigation, possibly as early as Monday or Tuesday. If that happens, court documents detailing newly developed scientific evidence that recently led the government to Ivins may be unsealed."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news8.net/news/stories/0808/540963.html>

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PALM-SIZED BIOSENSOR FOR POINT-OF-CARE AND FIELD APPLICATIONS

Nanowerk.com

August 4, 2008

"Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) has become the technology of choice for label-free detection of proteins and other biomolecules. SPR is based on the excitation of a surface plasmon at the interface between a dielectric and a thin layer of metal, typically gold. Once the sample is covered with the nanostructured gold layer (or another suitable metal), the surface absorbs light at certain wavelength. The absorption maximum is influenced by the refractive index of the fluid at the gold surface. This effect is called localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR) and it is used for detection of presence of biomolecules, such as specific proteins.

Typical systems for LSPR use spectrometers – optical instruments used to measure

properties of light over a specific portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. With advances in electronics and optics, spectrometers have become compact electronic devices that are easily plugged into a computer to perform the massive data processing that is required for analysis.

Researchers in Singapore have now developed a palm-sized and battery-operated bio-detection system based on LSPR which can operate on a single chip processor.”

“To be used as a biosensor, the gold surface is first covered by molecules that are antibody-specific to the target (antigen). Once the antigens are presented they bind to the surface and change the emission peak of the absorption.

Conventionally, this peak location is determined by the reflection of white light from the surface and its spectrum detection is performed by a spectrometer. What Neuzil and Reboud have proposed and tested is a simple method to detect the shift of the absorption peak that originated from the sample.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nanowerk.com/spotlight/spotid=6609.php>

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NEW DNA TECHNIQUE LED AUTHORITIES TO 'ANTHRAX KILLER'

Fox News.com

August 3, 2008

“A new, previously unavailable DNA identification process led investigators to the Army scientist and alleged 2001 anthrax killer, who killed himself as authorities closed in on him, FOX News confirmed Sunday.

The same anthrax that killed the victims was found in abundance on the envelopes and letters the perpetrator sent just after the Sept. 11 attacks. The identification was made from those samples, with DNA samples taken from the victims to confirm.”

“Details also emerged Sunday that Ivins was part of a multi-million-dollar deal to have his own vaccine mass produced in the wake of the anthrax attacks, The New York Post reported.

Ivins was reportedly the co-owner of a patent on what was seen as a cure to the threat.”

“An \$877.5 million contract was inked with biotech firm VaxGen to provide Ivins' vaccine in a deal in which he stood to profit, the Los Angeles Times reported.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,396627,00.html>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

July 31, 2008

"The VX 8-inch projectile (projo) campaign passed the 50 percent completion mark on Sunday, July 27, 2008. The first 8-inch projos were destroyed in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) on July 16, 2008.

The 8-inch VX projectile campaign is the 11th individual munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. A total of 13 individual disposal campaigns will be required to completely eliminate the Oregon stockpile.

When the last of the 8-inch VX projectiles are destroyed, the plant will prepare for processing VX land mines, which are the final VX munitions in the depot stockpile."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678471>

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UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - DEPOT DETECTS TRACES OF MUSTARD CHEMICAL AGENT VAPOR IN TWO IGLOOS DURING ROUTINE STORAGE AREA MONITORING

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

July 31, 2008

"Depot chemical operations monitoring workers detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside two different depot storage structures or "igloos" that house bulk containers. The traces of mustard chemical agent vapor were detected at about 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. during routine weekly monitoring. The vapor is likely due to leaking bulk containers.

There was no danger to the public or environment. The igloos have a passive filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structures. As a further protective measure after each leak was discovered, a powered filtration system was installed on each of the two igloos. The leaking containers will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary, and decontaminated."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678473>

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Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Sandy Banks: Sandra.Banks@anser.org

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Heather Williams: Heather.Williams@anser.org

Suzanne Martinez: Suzanne.Martinez@anser.org

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