

21 November 2008

Chem-Bio News

- 1. JUDGE ORDERS HATFILL SEARCH WARRANT MADE PUBLIC:** *"A federal judge on Monday ordered the Justice Department to release the information it used to persuade the courts to let it search the home of a former Army scientist who was exonerated in the 2001 anthrax attacks."*
- 2. MAN WHO HAD RICIN SENTENCED TO 3 1/2 YEARS:** *"Roger Bergendorff said he never planned to use the homemade toxin."*
- 3. 'ENLIGHTENED' ATOMS STAGE NANO-RIOT AGAINSTS UNIFORMITY:** *"The tiny lattices, they say, could be designed so that when a specific foreign bio-molecule enters a system, the atomic electron 'dancing' would stop. Because of this characteristic, they said, the system could be designed to trigger an alarm signal whenever a bio-hazard or perhaps a cancer cell was detected."*
- 4. GRANT TO AUSTIN NANO-MEDICAL FIRM WILL BOOST WORK ON DRUG-DELIVERY DEVICE:** *"A grant of \$3.5 million from the State of Texas will give a major boost to NanoMedical Systems Inc., an Austin company that is developing an innovative method of delivering medications through an under-the-skin device that uses nanotechnology."*
- 5. ANTIBIOTICS HIT GUTS LONGER THAN THOUGHT:** *"A new study reveals that a common antibiotic disrupts normal bacterial levels in the digestive tract of healthy adults for longer than previously thought. Six months later, in fact, some beneficial types of bacteria were still wiped out or remained at levels lower than before the drugs were taken."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. [PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT AND LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - WEAPONS DESTRUCTION TIMETABLE SET BACK:** *"Higher materials costs and other delays could push back the start date for destruction of chemical weapons here by almost two years, according to a Department of Defense news release this week."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

JUDGE ORDERS HATFILL SEARCH WARRANT MADE PUBLIC

By Jesse Holland
Associated Press on Yahoo News
November 17, 2008

"A federal judge on Monday ordered the Justice Department to release the information it

used to persuade the courts to let it search the home of a former Army scientist who was exonerated in the 2001 anthrax attacks.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said the government's search warrants and supporting documents relating to former Army scientist Stephen Hatfill and his then-girlfriend Peck Chegne should be made public.

The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times asked for the materials to be released, contending the public has a right to know why investigators wanted to search Hatfill's home and on what basis the courts agreed to allow those searches."

The full article can be found at: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081117/ap_on_go_ot/anthrax_hatfill

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MAN WHO HAD RICIN SENTENCED TO 3 1/2 YEARS

By Ashley Powers
The Los Angeles Times
November 18, 2008

"He had struggled with painkillers and alcohol. He was often depressed. In the late '90s, after a love affair ended, Roger Bergendorff turned to making the toxic powder ricin.

"I felt this was a harmless outlet for my anger, a potential shield" against those who might harm him, Bergendorff said. "I could not have used it even if I wanted to, because I fear God's judgment."

But possession of the poison, whose only legal use is for cancer research, is a federal crime. On Monday, U.S. District Judge Robert C. Jones sentenced Bergendorff to 3 1/2 years in prison -- slightly longer than prosecutors recommended -- for having ricin and unregistered firearm silencers. He was also fined \$7,500."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-ricin18-2008nov18,0,4343919.story>

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'ENLIGHTENED' ATOMS STAGE NANO-RIOT AGAINSTS UNIFORMITY

Nano Techwire.com
November 19, 2008

"When atoms in a crystal are struck by laser light, their electrons, excited by the light, typically begin moving back and forth together in a regular pattern, resembling nanoscale soldiers marching in a lockstep formation. But according to a new theory developed by Johns

Hopkins researchers, under the right conditions these atoms will rebel against uniformity. Their electrons will begin moving apart and then joining together again repeatedly like lively swing partners on a dance floor.

Moreover, the researchers say, this atomic freestyle dancing can be controlled, paving the way for tiny computer components that emit less heat and new sensors to detect bio-hazards and medical conditions."

"If their theory is confirmed, the Johns Hopkins researchers foresee other applications for these nanoscale atomic systems. The tiny lattices, they say, could be designed so that when a specific foreign bio-molecule enters a system, the atomic electron 'dancing' would stop. Because of this characteristic, they said, the system could be designed to trigger an alarm signal whenever a bio-hazard or perhaps a cancer cell was detected."

The full article can be found at: <http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=6921>

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GRANT TO AUSTIN NANO-MEDICAL FIRM WILL BOOST WORK ON DRUG-DELIVERY DEVICE

Nano Techwire.com
November 18, 2008

"A grant of \$3.5 million from the State of Texas will give a major boost to NanoMedical Systems Inc., an Austin company that is developing an innovative method of delivering medications through an under-the-skin device that uses nanotechnology.

The grant will help accelerate the completion of engineering and pre-clinical testing for the device, which will allow for a controlled dose of medicine to be released into the bloodstream over many weeks or months. The device will be a safer, more reliable and less costly alternative to a long series of injections or clinical visits."

The full article can be found at: <http://nanotechwire.com/news.asp?nid=6919>

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ANTIBIOTICS HIT GUTS LONGER THAN THOUGHT

By Helen Branswell
The Canadian Press in the GlobeandMail.com
November 19, 2008

"A new study reveals that a common antibiotic disrupts normal bacterial levels in the digestive tract of healthy adults for longer than previously thought. Six months later, in fact, some beneficial types of bacteria were still wiped out or remained at levels lower than before the drugs were taken.

"You don't want to be giving readers the impression that we shouldn't be using antibiotics (when needed)," said Dr. David Relman, senior author of the study, which was published Tuesday in the journal PLoS Biology.

"But it's the flip side. It's the trade-off part. ... Because we do overuse antibiotics."

"In this study, the researchers collected stool samples from their volunteers before they started the five-day course of cipro, during treatment and for months after.

They are actually still studying these individuals and four others and have samples going out a year after the first dose of the drug. But in this paper they report on results for the first six months only.

They mined the stool samples for traces of bacteria using a technique called polymerase chain reaction (PCR), identifying DNA from between 3,300 and 5,700 different types in the samples collected before treatment. Most of the bacteria – in fact 93 per cent – have not yet been identified, Dr. Relman said.

The diversity in bacterial types was cut by about one-third after the volunteers took the antibiotics. Dr. Relman said the size of the reduction came as a surprise."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081119.wantibiotics1119/BNStory/Science/home>

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Chem-Demil News

[PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT AND LEXINGTON BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT] - WEAPONS DESTRUCTION TIMETABLE SET BACK

By John Norton

The Pueblo Chieftain

November 20, 2008

"Higher materials costs and other delays could push back the start date for destruction of chemical weapons here by almost two years, according to a Department of Defense news release this week.

As part of a number of selected acquisition reports required when programs experience major changes, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program officials said that the "begin-operations" date had slipped from January 2015 to December 2016, and its start date for the Blue Grass Army Depot program was pushed back almost four years to 2021."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2008/11/20/news/local/doc492520877640e195910665.txt>

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