

27 October 2008

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. HOMELAND SECURITY LAB LIKE BIODEFENSE BATTLESHIP:** *"The building, with 50,000 square feet of high-security lab space, is part of a biodefense campus taking shape at Fort Detrick, already home to the military's top germ research facility."*

**2. DISEASE NOTIFICATION HEADS FOR STANDARDIZATION:** *"State epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are on their way to creating a national standard list of health conditions that public health authorities should be notified about."*

**3. NEW DRUGS COULD BE HIT IN SQUEEZE:** *"The credit crunch is likely to hit the discovery and production of many new medicines, experts are warning."*

**4. FIBERS FOR DECONTAMINATION OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS:** *"According to a first aspect, there is provided a nano-sized or micro-sized fiber comprising detoxifying particles."*

**5. BANKS FACE BIOTERRORISM HOAXES:** *"The number of banks and other agencies reporting threatening hoax letters containing a powdery substance has grown to nearly four dozen institutions in 11 states and the District of Columbia, the FBI said Wednesday."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **HOMELAND SECURITY LAB LIKE BIODEFENSE BATTLESHIP**

HometownAnnapolis.com

October 23, 2008

"The building, with 50,000 square feet of high-security lab space, is part of a biodefense campus taking shape at Fort Detrick, already home to the military's top germ research facility. The campus, with its own security perimeter, also will include new laboratories run by the Army and the National Institutes of Health.

When it opens next spring, the Homeland Security lab and its 140 scientists and technicians will give the government new tools for predicting biological attacks and identifying perpetrators of "bio-crimes." It will provide the FBI with a forensic capability it lacked after the 2001 anthrax mailings, which killed five people. Instead, investigators relied on Army and private-sector scientists for the microbial forensic work that led them to a flask from Ivins' lab."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2008/10\\_23-21/REG](http://www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2008/10_23-21/REG)

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## **DISEASE NOTIFICATION HEADS FOR STANDARDIZATION**

By Nancy Ferris  
Government HealthIT  
October 23, 2008

“State epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are on their way to creating a national standard list of health conditions that public health authorities should be notified about.

The working list has 68 diseases such as typhoid, AIDS, E. coli infection and anthrax. Now the epidemiologists, through their association, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, and the CDC are working to specify the point at which notification of a disease should occur and what information should be supplied for each disease.”

“A separate case reporting template is being developed for each disease.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.govhealthit.com/online/news/350640-1.html>

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## **NEW DRUGS COULD BE HIT IN SQUEEZE**

BBC  
October 27, 2008

“The credit crunch is likely to hit the discovery and production of many new medicines, experts are warning.

Professor David Wield, of the government-backed Economic and Social Research Council, said investment in biotech firms was drying up.”

“The biotech industry relies heavily on venture capital firms to back risky early research in return for shares.

But such risk-taking investment has been hit by the credit crunch and Professor Wield believes this will hamper the production of new medicines.”

The full article can be found at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7688848.stm>

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## **FIBERS FOR DECONTAMINATION OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS**

By RAMAKRISHNA, Seeram and SUBRAMANIAN, Sundarrajan  
October 23, 2008

Among the claims of the patent: "In one embodiment, there is provided a nano-sized fiber comprising nano-sized detoxifying particles. Advantageously, the detoxifying particles are capable of at least partially detoxifying a toxic agent.

Advantageously, the fibers, being in nano-sized or micro-sized form, can be used to manufacture materials and articles for the decontamination of surfaces contaminated with highly toxic agents such as chemical warfare ("CW"), and biological warfare ("BW") agents in addition to other toxic agents such as industrial chemicals and biological waste. Advantageously, the disclosed fiber comprising said particles is able to alter the toxic agent into a form that is at least partially, preferably completely, non-harmful to biological life. Another advantage of the disclosed fibers, being micro-sized or nano-sized, are in a form that is easy to manually handle. For example, plural fibers can be coupled together, thereby preventing the detoxifying particles from being airborne due to them being bound to the fibers."

"According to a fifth aspect, there is provided a method of detoxifying a toxic agent comprising the steps of: providing a nano-sized or micro-sized fiber comprising detoxifying particles; and contacting said fiber with said toxic agent under conditions for detoxifying at least a portion of said toxic agent. According to a sixth aspect, there is provided a nano-sized or micro-sized detoxification fiber comprising metal oxide particles capable of at least partially detoxifying a toxic agent.

According to a seventh aspect, there is provided a reactive sorbent comprising nano-sized or micro-sized fibers comprising metal oxide particles capable of at least partially detoxifying a toxic agent."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/ia.jsp?IA=SG2008000117&ia=SG2008%2F000117&DISPLAY=DESC>

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## **BANKS FACE BIOTERRORISM HOAXES**

By Terry Frieden  
CNNMoney.com  
October 22, 2008

"The number of banks and other agencies reporting threatening hoax letters containing a powdery substance has grown to nearly four dozen institutions in 11 states and the District of Columbia, the FBI said Wednesday.

The 45-plus cases are an increase from the 30 in eight states known as of Tuesday. The FBI, U.S. postal inspectors and state and local authorities are investigating, resulting in what FBI spokesman Richard Kolko called "a drain on resources" for those agencies."

The full article can be found at: [http://money.cnn.com/2008/10/22/news/companies/hoax\\_letters/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2008/10/22/news/companies/hoax_letters/index.htm)

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