

15 April 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

### **1. EINSTEIN RESEARCHERS DEVISE A FAST AND SENSITIVE WAY TO DETECT**

**RICIN:** *"Scientists at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have developed a simple, accurate and highly sensitive test to detect and quantify ricin, an extremely potent toxin with potential use as a bioterrorism agent."*

**2. [VN] LABORATORY RECEIVES WHO ACCREDITATION:** *"The country's first Laboratory Biosafety level 3 has achieved World Health Organisation's standards for testing for dangerous diseases."*

**3. FORT DETRICK PLANS BIODEFENSE EXERCISE:** *"The Army says it is planning a daylong, outdoor biological weapons defense exercise next week at Fort Detrick."*

**4. UKRAINE ARRESTS 3 IN RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SALE:** *"Ukrainian security agents have arrested a regional lawmaker and two companions for trying to sell a radioactive substance that could be used in making a dirty bomb, officials said Tuesday."*

**5. NEW ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL SECURITY-RELATED APPOINTMENTS:** *"Andrew C. Weber, Nominee for Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs), Department of Defense."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **EINSTEIN RESEARCHERS DEVISE A FAST AND SENSITIVE WAY TO DETECT RICIN**

Yeshiva University News Press Release

April 13, 2009

"Scientists at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have developed a simple, accurate and highly sensitive test to detect and quantify ricin, an extremely potent toxin with potential use as a bioterrorism agent. The report appears as a featured article in the April 12th issue of Analytical Chemistry."

"The ricin assay described in the journal article was developed in the laboratory of Vern Schramm, PhD, Ruth Merns Professor of Biochemistry at Einstein and corresponding author. The assay detects small amounts of ricin more accurately and faster than ever before."

Users of the assay would place samples of potentially adulterated food, or swabs used to wipe potentially contaminated surfaces, into a few drops of a mixture of reagents; the mixture will emit light if ricin is present, with higher luminescence indicating greater concentrations of the toxin."

The full article can be found at: <http://spider.mc.yu.edu/news/articles/article.cfm?id=101864>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **[VN] LABORATORY RECEIVES WHO ACCREDITATION**

Vietnam News Agency

April 11, 2009

"The country's first Laboratory Biosafety level 3 has achieved World Health Organisation's standards for testing for dangerous diseases."

"Funded by the Government of Japan, the US\$8 million laboratory is inside the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Ha Noi. It includes three sections for testing human samples and another for animal.

Last year, the laboratory conducted more than 500 tests. Eight were positive to the Avian Influenza H5N1, as were two for rabies. An anthrax case was also detected.

The Government would invest about \$5.6 million to build a similar laboratory in HCM City this year, [Deputy Health Minister Trinh Quan] Huan said."

The full article can be found at: <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=02HEA110409>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **FORT DETRICK PLANS BIODEFENSE EXERCISE**

Associated Press on FrederickNewsPost.com

April 10, 2009

"The Army says it is planning a daylong, outdoor biological weapons defense exercise next week at Fort Detrick.

Spokeswoman Caree Vander Linden said today the mock emergency on Wednesday will include people in hazardous material suits and ambulances with sirens."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/displayUpdate.htm?storyid=88814>

[Return to Top](#)

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## **UKRAINE ARRESTS 3 IN RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SALE**

Associated Press on Google News

April 14, 2009

“Ukrainian security agents have arrested a regional lawmaker and two companions for trying to sell a radioactive substance that could be used in making a dirty bomb, officials said Tuesday.

The legislator in the western Ternopyl region and two local businessmen were detained last week for trying to sell 8.2 pounds (3.7 kilograms) of radioactive material to an undercover agent of the security service, said Marina Ostapenko, a spokeswoman for the service.

The suspects tried to peddle the substance as plutonium-239, a highly radioactive material that can be used to build nuclear weapons, and demanded \$10 million, Ostapenko said.

But security experts later determined that the material was likely americium, a widely used radioactive material. Ostapenko said it could be used in a dirty bomb, but not nuclear weapons.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gH\\_89sNbRUaG-\\_lfZN4aiuWyYoawD97I9GPO0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gH_89sNbRUaG-_lfZN4aiuWyYoawD97I9GPO0)

[Return to Top](#)

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## **NEW ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL SECURITY-RELATED APPOINTMENTS**

White House Press Release

April 14, 2009

“Bonnie D. Jenkins, Nominee for Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs (with the Rank of Ambassador), Department of State

Dr. Jenkins is the Program Officer for U.S. Foreign and Security policy at the Ford Foundation. Her grant making seeks to strengthen public engagement in US foreign and security policy debate and formulation in order to promote support for multilateralism, the peaceful resolution of disputes, and the rule of international law. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jenkins served on the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (“9-11 Commission”), as counsel. She was the lead Commission staff member on counterterrorism policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on U.S. military plans to go after Al Qaeda prior to 9-11. She wrote part of the 9/11 report, which has since become a national bestseller. Jenkins also served as General Counsel to the U.S. Commission to assess the organization of the federal government to combat proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and as a consultant to the 2000 National Commission on Terrorism. She also worked at the RAND Corporation in their National Security Division. She recently served as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Naval Reserves and completed a year of deployment at CENTCOM. Jenkins has worked in the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Policy Planning as a consultant of the Kosovo History Project. An expert on arms control and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Jenkins also served for nine years as legal advisor to U.S. Ambassadors and delegations negotiating arms control and nonproliferation

treaties during her time as a Legal Advisor in the Office of General Council at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. She began her years in government when appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow. Jenkins is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the American Bar Association. She received a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Virginia; an LL.M. in international and comparative law from the Georgetown University Law Center; an MPA from the State University of New York at Albany; a J.D. from Albany Law School; and a BA from Amherst College. She also attended The Hague Academy for International Law."

"Andrew C. Weber, Nominee for Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs), Department of Defense

Andrew Weber is currently an adviser for threat reduction policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he is responsible for Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction initiatives to reduce the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, where he teaches a course on force and diplomacy in the Foreign Service Program. He was previously a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, where he served in diplomatic assignments in Saudi Arabia, Germany, Kazakhstan, and Hong Kong. Weber has an MS from Georgetown University and a BA from Cornell University. He lives in Arlington, Virginia with his wife Julie and daughter Eleanor."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-4/14/09/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-4/14/09/)

[Return to Top](#)

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