

Chem-Bio News

1. COLORADO STATE PROFESSOR HONORED BY JAPAN FOR HELP SOLVING '90S SARIN GAS

ATTACKS: *"Anthony Tu's expertise about a deadly nerve gas helped the Japanese identify and catch suspects in the sarin gas attacks in the 1990s – assistance that has now earned him one of the nation's highest honors."*

2. IAEA PASSES RESOLUTION REBUKING IRAN OVER COVER-UP: *"The U.N. nuclear watchdog's governing body voted overwhelmingly on Friday to censure Iran for developing a uranium enrichment site in secret, and demanded it freeze the project immediately."*

3. SECURING AMERICA'S BORDERS: CBP FISCAL YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW FACT SHEET: *"CBP deployed 179 new radiation portal monitors (RPM) throughout the nation's ports of entry, bringing the number of RPMs to 1,354 at the nation's land and sea ports of entry."*

4. SAFETY BREACH AT IU SENDS 7 TO HOSPITAL AS PRECAUTION: *"An Indiana University laboratory that does research on deadly bubonic plague bacterium sent seven people to Bloomington Hospital after a small amount of potentially infected material was discovered in a place where it shouldn't have been in the lab."*

5. MEDICAL ISOTOPE SHORTAGE CONCERNS IN US: *"The difficulties with isotope supply began in May 2009, when the Canadian government closed its 52-year-old nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, for three months to conduct repairs. The shutdown was later extended to the first quarter of 2010."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

COLORADO STATE PROFESSOR HONORED BY JAPAN FOR HELP SOLVING '90S SARIN GAS ATTACKS

Colorado State University News Release
November 23, 2009

"Anthony Tu's expertise about a deadly nerve gas helped the Japanese identify and catch suspects in the sarin gas attacks in the 1990s – assistance that has now earned him one of the nation's highest honors."

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"Japanese officials used Tu's assistance to analyze the sarin and its byproducts to identify the manufacturing facility where the religious sect Aum Shinrikyo produced 70 tons of the deadly nerve gas. Tu's knowledge of chemicals produced from the degradation of sarin in soils was instrumental in linking Aum Shinrikyo definitively with the manufacture and use of sarin, evidence that helped convict the sect's leader, Shoko Asahara, who was later sentenced to be hanged."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news.colostate.edu/Release/492>

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IAEA PASSES RESOLUTION REBUKING IRAN OVER COVER-UP

By Mark Heinrich

Reuters
November 27, 2009

“The U.N. nuclear watchdog's governing body voted overwhelmingly on Friday to censure Iran for developing a uranium enrichment site in secret, and demanded it freeze the project immediately.

The resolution, passed by a 25-3 margin with six abstentions, was the first by the 35-nation governing board in almost four years. With rare Russian and Chinese backing, it sent a message of international exasperation with Iran's nuclear secrecy and defiance.

But it was unclear whether the measure, sponsored by six world powers, would translate into crucial Russian-Chinese support for painful sanctions that Western leaders may push for if Iran does not begin to dispel fears about its nuclear ambitions soon.

Most developing nations on the International Atomic Energy Agency board, who are in a bloc that includes Iran, opposed the move, saying it would be provocative and counterproductive. Iran warned it would undermine its relations with the IAEA.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE5AQ1BZ20091127>
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SECURING AMERICA'S BORDERS: CBP FISCAL YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW FACT SHEET

US Customs and Border Patrol Fact Sheet
November 24, 2009

“CBP deployed 179 new radiation portal monitors (RPM) throughout the nation's ports of entry, bringing the number of RPMs to 1,354 at the nation's land and sea ports of entry. These deployed RPMs allow CBP the capability to scan 100 percent of all mail and express consignment mail/parcels; 99 percent of all truck cargo and 98percent percent of the personally owned vehicles entering from Canada; 100 percent of all truck cargo and 100 percent of the personally owned vehicles arriving from Mexico; and approximately 98 percent of all arriving sea-borne containerized cargo for illicit radiological/nuclear materials.”

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“Received and adjudicated 7,408 Weapons of Mass Destruction hotline requests for technical assistance at the Tele-forensics Center. These calls came from CBP, SFI, USCG, and Mega-ports. Many inappropriate radioactive shipments were returned to their country of origin.”

The full article can be found at:
http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/11242009_5.xml
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SAFETY BREACH AT IU SENDS 7 TO HOSPITAL AS PRECAUTION

By Mike Leonard
Apria Healthcare
November 21, 2009

“An Indiana University laboratory that does research on deadly bubonic plague bacterium sent seven people to Bloomington Hospital after a small amount of potentially infected material was discovered in a place where it shouldn't have been in the lab.

The seven were sent to the emergency room Wednesday to begin antibiotic treatment as a precautionary measure, university spokesman Larry MacIntyre said Friday afternoon.”

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"We think it's highly unlikely that anybody could be infected with anything, but since it's not a 100 percent certainty, we're not going to take a chance," MacIntyre said.

The laboratory in Jordan Hall was touted as the state's first to be accredited to study "select agents," or biological strains that Congress has determined could be used for bioterrorism.

Biologist Melanie Marketon was brought in from the University of Chicago to run the lab and study the *Yersinia pestis* bacterium, which causes bubonic plague.

"What happened was that at some point earlier this week it was discovered in the lab that some animal skin dander was found outside of a cage," MacIntyre said. "It was still within the contained lab. That lab is one of these negative pressure things where no air or dust can get out.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.apria.com/resources/1,2725,494-1033107,00.html>
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MEDICAL ISOTOPE SHORTAGE CONCERNS IN US

By Rebecca Trager
Chemistry World
November 25, 2009

"Efforts to address a shortage of medical isotopes are gaining momentum in the US amid warnings from a key government advisory panel and congressional action.

Around 50,000 medical procedures are performed every day in the US using isotopes produced abroad. These medical isotopes contain small quantities of radioactive substance used to image and treat disease.

The difficulties with isotope supply began in May 2009, when the Canadian government closed its 52-year-old nuclear reactor in Chalk River, Ontario, for three months to conduct repairs. The shutdown was later extended to the first quarter of 2010. The problem became worse when the 48-year-old High Flux Reactor in the Netherlands closed for a month this summer for regular maintenance; it will be closed again for repair work in early 2010 for another six months. These two reactors are estimated to supply 60 per cent and 40 per cent of the medical isotopes used in the US respectively.

The US Department of Energy's (DOE) isotope programme does not currently have any working facilities that can separate a broad range of stable and long-lived isotopes. Neither can it provide continuous access to many of these key isotopes because it relies on accelerators and reactors whose primary work is not isotope production.

On 12 November, a subcommittee of the DOE's Nuclear Science Advisory Committee released a report calling for two major new isotope production facilities to be built in the country - a dedicated electromagnetic isotope separation facility, and a variable-energy, high-current, multi-particle accelerator that can produce critical research isotopes. The estimated total cost of these facilities is \$25 million (£15 million) and \$40 million respectively."

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"The President appears receptive; a DOE funding bill Obama signed into law in October included \$20 million to jump-start the domestic supply of medical isotopes without the use of highly enriched uranium."

The full article can be found at:
<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/News/2009/November/25110902.asp>
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