### BioRisk Policy: in a global biotech revolution



# Historically....It was Biosafety

 Lessons learned from USG offensive program

– Dr. Arnold G. Wedum (Camp Detrick)

 Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL)

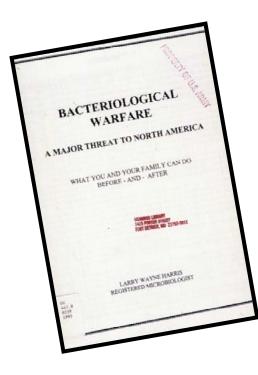
### - Facilities, Equipment & Procedures

"To further reduce the potential for laboratoryassociated infections, the guidelines presented here should be considered <u>minimal quidance</u> for containment. They must be customized for each individual laboratory and can be used in conjunction with other available scientific information."

## Then in 1996....Biosecurity

"The Select Agent Rule"

Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996





Larry Wayne Harris

- Selected agents to be controlled
- Registration of laboratories <u>for agent transfer</u>

A 'bio-unabomber' ?

### The USA Patriot Act: 2001

#### & The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002

Title II: Enhancing controls on dangerous biological agents and Toxins

Regulatory control of certain biological agents and toxins (BSAT)

Regulation of transfers of BSAT

Possession and use of BSAT

Not required in 1996 Act

Registration (of persons) who work with BSAT <

Safeguard and security requirements for registered persons

Inspections

Disclosure of information...re databases

Civil money penalty

Notification in event of release of BSAT

Reporting requirements

April 2008---9,918 individuals approved to work with Select Agents May 2008---324 entities registered with CDC (gov, corp, acad, NGOs)



#### AUGUST 2, 2008 SATURDAY

MELINE OF

EVENTS OCTOBER: Anthrax is mailed to lawmakers on Capitol Hill

and news media in New York and Florida. By November,

five people are dead and 17

JANUARY: Senate office

building reopens. FBI

doubles the reward to

JUNE: FBI scrutinizes 20 to 30 scientists who had knowledge and opportunity to send the anthrax letters. AUGUST: Law enforcement

officials call Steven J. Hattill, a blowarfare expert, a "person of interest."

JUNE: FBI drains pond in

**DECEMBER:** Postal workers begin moving back into Washington's main mail

Frederick, in search of anthrax-related evidence. Nothing suspicious is found. AUGUST: Hatfili sues government officials, accusing them of using him as a scapegoat.

others sickened.

\$2.5 million

fredericknewspost.com | Vol. 125 | No. 293 | 4 Sections | Press Run: 43,268 | FINAL

50¢

BRUCE

IVINS

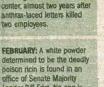
#### USAMRIID | ANTHRAX BREACH INVESTIGATION

#### FEDERAL AGENTS WERE CLOSING IN, AND BRUCE IVINS KNEW IT.

THE ARMY MICROBIOLOGIST WHO WAS WORKING ON A VACCINE FOR ANTHRAX POISONING WAS NOW BEING GRILLED AS A SUSPECT IN THE 2001 LETTER ATTACKS THAT KILLED FIVE PEOPLE AND SICKENED 17, FBI AGENTS WERE STAKING OUT HIS HOUSE, IVINS WAS A FREDERICK RESIDENT WHO WORKED AT THE U.S. ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. HE DIED TUESDAY IN AN APPARENT SUICIDE. AUTHORITIES WERE PLANNING TO CHARGE HIM WITH MAILING THE TOXIN-LACED LETTERS, WHICH SPREAD NATIONWIDE ALARM JUST WEEKS AFTER THE SEPT. 11, 2001, TERROR ATTACKS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.

# HRAX GASE SCIENTIST COMMITS SUICIDE AS FBI PROBE TIGH

#### THE PLACES AND THE PLAYERS



office of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist. No one is hurt and no arrests are made.

JULY 11: BIOONE, a company founded by former NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, begins fumigating former headquarters of The Sun, the Florida tabloid that was targeted first.

JULY 12: Testing determines The Sun's headquarters is free of anthrax.

JULY 13: Hatfill sues The w York Times for



and a

#### STEVEN HATFILI

The former residence of Steven Hatfill, Ivins' colleague at Fort Detrick, Then-Attorney General John Ashcroft called Hatfill a "person of interest" in 2002. In late June, the Justice Department cleared Hatfill, who had been wrongly suspected in the anthrax case, and paid him \$5.8 million. He also sued The New York Times.

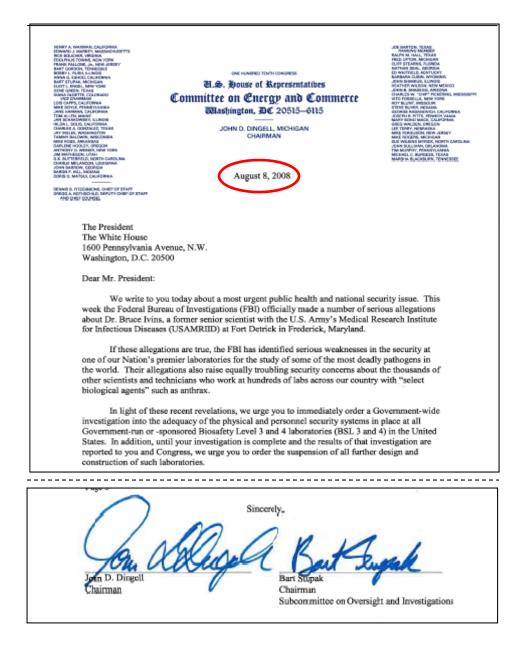
Rimme Juna

#### BRUCE IVINS The home of Bruce lvins.

Federal prosecutors investigating the 2001. anthrax attacks were planning to indict lvins in connection with anthrax mailings that killed five people. Ivins died Tuesday at Frederick Memorial Hospital, after being found unresponsive by police in his home Sunday



### **The Dingell – Stupak Letter**



### **The Dingell – Stupak Letter**

HART A INVENIOUS CALCIDENA ENNANCIA LANEEN AMADGACHARTTE ROCKELSCHER, VIEISIA ROCKELSCHER, VIEISIA ROCKELSCHER, VIEISIA ROCKELSCHER, VIEISIA ROCKELSCHER, VIEISIA BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIEL, LANEELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIELSCHER BARRIE	OBE HANDRO TENDROSAURSE E.S. Pouse of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Blashington, DC 20515–6115 JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN CHAIRMAN August 8, 2008	
The President		
The White House	N W	
1600 Pennsylvania Av Wurbington, D.C. 205		
Washington, D.C. 205	00	
Dear Mr. President:		

If these allegations are true, the FBI has identified serious weaknesses in the security at one of our Nation's premier laboratories for the study of some of the most deadly pathogens in the world. Their allegations also raise equally troubling security concerns about the thousands of other scientists and technicians who work at hundreds of labs across our country with "select biological agents" such as anthrax.

> investigation into the adequacy of the physical and personnel security systems in place at all Government-run or -sponsored Biosafety Level 3 and 4 laboratories (BSL 3 and 4) in the United States. In addition, until your investigation is complete and the results of that investigation are reported to you and Congress, we urge you to order the suspension of all further design and construction of such laboratories.

# Personnel Reliability: AR 50-1

28 July 08...AR 50-X since 2004

#### 2-8. Other disqualifying factors

Any of the following traits,, **based on the certifying official's informed** judgment.

d. Inappropriate attitude, conduct, or behavior...

(1) **Negligence or delinquency** in performance of duty.

(2) ... a contemptuous attitude toward the law, regulations, or other duly constituted authority....

(3) Poor attitude or lack of motivation... arrogance, inflexibility, suspiciousness, hostility, flippancy toward BPRP responsibilities, and extreme moods or mood swings.

(4) Aggressive/threatening behavior toward other individuals.

(5) **Attempting to conceal** PDI [*potentially disqualifying information*] from certifying officials

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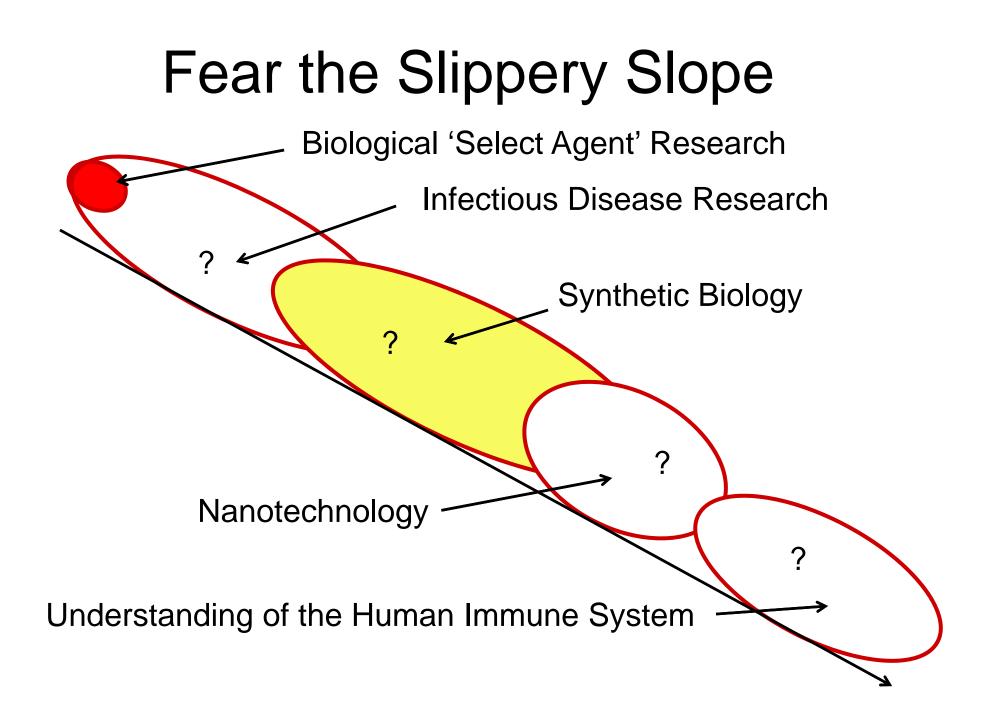
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"This reminds me of many scientists I know. Really smart people are often just a tiny bit weird and quirky, in case you haven't noticed...and often irritating..." <u>web blog editorial</u>

# Biological 'Surety' 2008

- Biological 'Surety'
  - -Biological Safety
  - -Physical Security
  - -Agent Accountability
  - -Personnel Reliability\*

\* Requires that persons with access to select agents **are "mentally alert, mentally and emotionally stable, trustworthy, and physically competent".** AR 50-1



# Implications of a mistake:

Over-regulation of our life-sciences research enterprise

### -Our ability to provide

- Healthcare
- Food and agriculture
- Energy
- -Our economy
- -Our ability to complete globally
- -Our national security

It could take 5-10 years to know that we have over-regulated... ...and 15-20 years to turn it around

## The Risk in Context

- PRPs are US-Centered
- Most BSATs are Naturally Occurring
- Tracking Individual Pathogens Impossible
- New Technologies make Lists Obsolete
- New Technologies not on "The List"

Proliferation is over... We're in a different kind over nuclear issue wide open and by international norms.

# If we over-regulate our science...don't assume the world will follow



Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh dismissed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's suggestions that India accept binding limits on carbon emissions, saying it had among the lowest per capita emissions. A7

But disease surveillance, Diagnostics, biosafety, biosecurity, quality research, and ethics are all accepted topics for discussion and engagement.

# "Some old wisdom..."

"There is no technical solution to the problem of biological weapons. It needs an ethical, human, and moral solution if it's going to happen at all. Don't ask me what the odds are for an ethical solution, but there is no other solution."

<Then Dr. Lederberg paused and said,>



"But would an ethical solution appeal to a sociopath?"



### The 'insider threat'

### Enlightened Leadership

#### Lead with Science

Quality Research Emphasis on Safety Vision Education Responsibility Accountability Honesty Transparency Ethics *A Culture of Trust*  Regulatory Oversight

Lead with Security Guns, Gates and Guards Background Checks Psychological Evaluation Lists & Pathogen Control A Culture of Mistrust?

Some labs will need some of the right column, but every lab can benefit from the left...

Which will make us safer and more productive?

The 'insider threat'

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A Culture of Trust and Accountability

Which will make us safer and more productive?

# Thoughts on the way ahead...

- Life sciences community takes back momentum:
  - Transparency in science
  - Communicate, Educate, Recruit...Lead!
  - Demonstrate a Culture of Responsibility
  - Build Public Trust
- Work with "the Regulators" and concerned citizens to:
  - Carefully consider <u>real risk</u>
  - Carefully consider <u>real value</u> of all solutions
  - Consider the <u>entire cost</u> of all solutions
    - <u>Real costs:</u> Equipment, scientist time, Decreased 'tooth-to-tail' ratio
    - Intangible costs: Scientists move to other fields, Research offshore
- Seek solutions that limit frustration to scientists

### "Zero Risk" is not an option... We can't afford it!



It's a dangerous world out there. We must work through these issues <u>together</u>...globally.

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