

# Bio Terror Bible

## EXPOSING THE COMING BIO-TERROR PANDEMIC

**BIOTERRORBIBLE.COM:** Bio-terror and pandemic related conferences have occurred on a regular basis since 9/11, but have recently started occurring on a monthly basis since March of 2011.

**Title:** WHO Director-General Addresses Unprecedented Meeting On Neglected Tropical Diseases

**Date:** January 30, 2012

**Source:** [WHO](#) (World Health Organization)

### Abstract:

Dr Margaret Chan  
Director-General of the World Health Organization

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today's event sends a strong message of encouragement.

At a time of severe financial constraints, it is still possible to set ambitious targets for diseases, secure unprecedented commitments, and accelerate action to meet those targets.

This message is all the more heartening given the people who will benefit. The bottom billion. The poorest of the poor. People with little visibility and even less political voice.

For decades, WHO has been the champion of these people, steadily working to give them the vision of a better life. This leadership, supported by research, partners, and industry donations, has changed the face of NTDs.

Once considered inevitable companions of poverty, many NTDs are now being brought to their knees, with stunning speed.

Last week, WHO issued a roadmap for accelerating work to overcome these diseases. The targets for implementation are ambitious yet feasible, based on the best science available, but also on impressive results under some of the most challenging conditions in the world.

With the boost to this momentum being made today, I am confident almost all of these ancient diseases can be eliminated or controlled by the end of this decade.

The strategies set out in the WHO roadmap are tested and proven to be effective. Let me assure you: WHO knows how to deliver on these commitments in ways that bring results.

The roadmap follows two overarching approaches being covered today.

That is, using what exists while maximizing the impact through smart programme management. And innovation to improve or repurpose existing tools and develop better ones.

We know that programmes for disease elimination or eradication that stress innovation have the best chance of success. This is what we all want: success in relieving the misery of more than a billion people.

The payback will be enormous.

Thank you ([WHO, 2012](#)).

**Title:** Decision Time For Researchers Of Deadly Bird Flu

**Date:** February 14, 2012

**Source:** [MSNBC](#)

**Abstract:** When 22 bird flu experts meet at the World Health Organization (WHO) this week, they will be tasked with deciding just how far scientists should go in [creating lethal mutant viruses](#) in the name of research.

The hurriedly-assembled meeting is designed to try and settle an unprecedented row over a call to ban publication of two scientific studies which detail how to mutate H5N1 bird flu viruses into a form that could cause a deadly human pandemic.

But experts say whatever the outcome, no amount of censorship, global regulation or shutting down of research projects could stop rogue scientists getting the tools to create and release a pandemic H5N1 virus if they were intent on evil.

"It doesn't matter how much you restrict scientists from doing good, bad people can still do bad things," said Wendy Barclay, an expert in flu virology at Imperial College London.

The WHO called the meeting, for February 17 and 18 in Geneva, to work out how to break a deadlock between scientists who have studied the mutations needed to make H5N1 transmit between mammals and U.S. biosecurity chiefs who want their work censored or "redacted" before it goes into scientific journals.

Since the two research teams, one in the Netherlands and one in the United States, have found that just a small number of mutations would allow H5N1 to spread like ordinary flu between mammals - and remain just as deadly as it is now - the meeting is likely to be tense and highly secretive. WHO officials repeatedly stress it will be a "closed door" event.

The United Nations health body has said it is "deeply concerned about the potential negative consequences" of work by the two leading flu research teams who in December said they had found ways to make H5N1 into a easily transmissible form capable of causing lethal human pandemics.

Flu researchers from around the world - more than 30 teams in all - declared a 60-day moratorium starting on January 20 on "any research involving highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses" that produce easily contagious forms of the virus.

The WHO has invited 22 people to this week's meeting, including the researchers who carried out the work, editors of the two journals, Science and Nature, who were asked to hold publication, and representatives from the U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) which asked for the papers to be censored.

Keiji Fukuda, the WHO's Assistant Director-General for Health Security and Environment, who will chair the meeting, says he would like to secure agreement on whether the studies should be published, in full or part, and who should have access to them.

The scientific know-how is seen as vital for scientists to be able to develop vaccines, diagnostic tests and anti-viral drugs that could be deployed in the event of an H5N1 pandemic.

"It is important that research on these viruses should continue," Fukuda told Reuters. "They do pose a risk. There's a lot of things we don't know about them. The question is not really should we continue to do research ... but under what conditions can we do it so we don't unnecessarily create fears and risks."

The H5N1 virus, first detected in Hong Kong in 1997, remains entrenched among poultry in many countries, mainly in Asia, but so far remains hard for humans to catch. It is known to have infected nearly 700 people worldwide since 2003, killing half of them, a far higher fatality rate than the H1N1 swine flu which caused an influenza pandemic in 2009/2010.

Ron Fouchier, the scientist leading the Dutch team that gave H5N1 various genetic mutations and made it transmissible in mammals, argues the research must be published to help public health officials better prepare for a scenario where the virus could mutate and become more deadly, spreading from person to person via coughs and sneezes.

He has also said other research teams around the world are close to the same findings, some of them inadvertently, and should be warned in advance how the virus could become airborne.

In the short term, most scientists agree the moratorium is "a good gesture," as flu expert and former WHO health security adviser David Heymann describes it, one that offers the research community space to think.

But can it, or should it, go on forever?

Heymann, Barclay and many other scientists argue that stopping this type of research into flu viruses and other potentially lethal pathogens would set a dangerous precedent.

Although adding and deleting genes can create super-strains that put the entire world at risk, Heymann said, such work is also vital to developing tools such as effective vaccines and diagnostic tests which are needed quickly if a pandemic hits.

Preventing this research would also prevent legitimate and well-intentioned researchers from using all possible scientific options to prepare for naturally occurring, or deliberately caused, outbreaks.

John Edmunds, who heads the department of infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, describes studies on genetic mutations of H5N1 as "very, very important work" that should not be stopped.

"This flu strain has the potential to cause such enormous damage, and it's important to know how far away we are from a horrible event like that," he said. "It appears we're not that far off it. That doesn't mean it's inevitably going to happen, but it makes it more important that we're vigilant."

Heymann, who now leads the Center on Global Health Security at the Chatham House think-tank in London, says the best possible outcome would be a globally-agreed "best practices framework on how you conduct this research and how you provide the information to others."

"It's also crucial to get understanding that even if you don't provide this research information, there are ways that rogue scientists can get it if they want to," he said ([MSNBC, 2012](#)).

**Title:** Asia Pacific CBRN Conference Kicks Off This Week

**Date:** February 21, 2012

**Source:** [Bio Prep Watch](#)

**Abstract:** The SMI Group has announced the details for its 2nd annual Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosives Asia Pacific conference, which will be held from February 21 through February 24 in Singapore.

The conference, which will be located at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, will include high level speakers from all over the world discussing CBRN-E issues. The conference will focus on initiatives to prepare for and prevent CBRN-E attacks in the Asia Pacific region of the world.

The four day event will discuss topics that range from medical countermeasures to regional programs. Attendees will see just how governments deal with such terrorist threats. The program will include presentations from various Asian countries, including South Korea, India, Japan, Singapore, Australia and Vietnam, as well as Emergent BioSolutions' Allen Shofe. There will also be a special pre-conference workshop focusing on the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant incident one year later, including lessons learned from the disaster and regulations related to nuclear safety.

Speakers scheduled for the conference include

The event will also feature a post-conference workshop to discuss how to counteract a bioterrorism attack on a populated city in Asia. The workshop will have sessions on different bioterrorism agents, how they spread and how to contain a threat through first responder techniques. Emergent Biosolutions, a global biopharmaceutical company, will moderate the workshop.

"CBRN-E Asia Pacific is the leading CBRN-E event in Asia Pacific and is the largest gathering of high level government, military and industry CBRN-E experts," the SMi Group said. "CBRN-E Asia Pacific serves as a platform for decision makers, influencers and those at the forefront of current operations to come together to give attendees the crucial feedback and lessons learned. A vibrant exhibition runs parallel to the conference where vendors have the opportunity to showcase their latest products, technology and solutions for the CBRN-E community" ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

**Title:** Discussion Of NSABB's Publication Recommendations For The NIH-Funded Research On The Transmissibility Of H5N1

**Date:** February 29, 2012

**Source:** [ASM Bio-Defense](#)

**Abstract:** Moderated by the Chair of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB), Paul Keim, Ph.D., this newly added session at the ASM Biodefense and Emerging Diseases Research Meeting will include discussions of the NSABB's recommendations for the publication of the controversial H5N1 research. This session will also provide an open forum for attendees to give their feedback on such policy issues as the appropriate mechanisms to allay public concerns about the safety of dual use research.

**Presentations will include:**



**NSABB Recommendations**

**Michael T. Osterholm, Ph.D., MPH**

University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Minneapolis, MN  
Director, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP)



### **Government Response to the Recommendations**

**Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.**

Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)



### **Science's Response to the Situation**

**Bruce Alberts, Ph.D.**

Editor-in-Chief of *Science*



### **Perspective from an Investigator**

**Ron A.M. Fouchier, Ph.D.**

Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, Netherlands ([ASM Bio-Defense](#)).

**Title:** Thousands Of Scientists To Convene In Vancouver, B.C., For 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting

**Date:** January 23, 2012

**Source:** [AAAS](#)

**Abstract:** It is a question that frames the 21st century scientific enterprise: As the world population moves toward 9 billion, will it be possible to provide food, water, and energy for everyone without dangerously depleting natural resources and damaging the environment? These challenges will be the focus of the 178th AAAS Annual Meeting, which convenes from 16-20 February in Vancouver, British Columbia.

The meeting will feature thousands of top scientists, engineers, educators, policymakers, and science journalists from some 50 nations and a full spectrum of disciplines. More than 170 plenary addresses, lectures, seminars, and symposia—plus more than two dozen briefings and interview sessions for reporters—are scheduled under the theme “Flattening the World: Building a Global Knowledge Society.”

“The theme... is intended to focus the program on the complex, interconnected challenges of the 21st century and on pathways to global solutions through international, multidisciplinary efforts,” said AAAS President Nina V. Fedoroff in her [letter](#) of invitation.

The program will be rich and ambitious: Daily [plenary addresses and panels](#) featuring international science leaders such as climate expert **James Hansen**, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, and **Frans B. M. de Waal**, the Dutch behavioral biologist and author known for his work on the social intelligence of primates. [Lectures](#) by influential researchers in topics ranging from water security and volcanism to molecular motors and the genetic revolution. [Full-day seminars](#) featuring international panels of researchers focused on climate change in northern latitudes, understanding the universe, and the potential future impact of biology. [Symposia tracks](#) from a broad spectrum of disciplines, with special attention on energy, food security, communication, education, development, and international collaboration,

The AAAS Annual Meeting also will feature the traditional [Family Science Days](#), free and open to the public, on Saturday and Sunday, 18-19 February. Hands-on activities will focus on alien planets, sea creatures, rocketry, and other areas, and kids (along with their parents) will have the chance to meet and talk with scientists ([AAAS, 2012](#)).

**Title:** Sixty-Fifth World Health Assembly

**Date:** 2012

**Source:** [WHO](#)

**Abstract:** The Sixty-fifth session of the World Health Assembly will take place in Geneva during 21-26 May 2012. At this session, the Health Assembly will discuss a number of public health issues such as universal health coverage, Millennium Development Goals, noncommunicable diseases, mental disorders, nutrition and adolescent pregnancy. The Health Assembly will also discuss the programme budget, administration and management matters of WHO ([WHO, 2012](#)).

**Title:** Europe's Largest, General Science Meeting In Dublin This July

**Date:** February 4, 2012

**Source:** [Digital Hub](#)

**Abstract:** The Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) - Europe's largest, general science meeting - will be hosted by Dublin this summer from the 11th to the 15th of July.

Held in a leading European city every two years the ESOF was last held in Turin in 2010 and Copenhagen will host then event in 2014. Dublin was awarded the honour of hosting ESOF in 2012, following an open competition.

The event is unique in the diversity of delegates who attend: it attracts top researchers from the natural sciences and the social sciences; business leaders; senior EU and government officials; and international scientific media. They come to discuss the best of European science and to address all of the current major global scientific challenges, including Energy, Climate Change, Food and Health.

The programme for this year's ESOF includes programmes on Science, Science 2 Business, Careers, a Social programme and a Science in the City Festival which will celebrate "where creativity and great science meet".

The Science 2 Business programme includes interactive workshops (which will debate the key issues facing nascent and existing entrepreneurs from a scientific background), advisory booths, business speed-dating opportunities, and a vibrant market place buzzing with the anticipation of potential collaborations.

The diverse range of speakers at the ESOF 2012 includes Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director General of CERN, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, President of the Institute of Physics, Mary Robinson Former President of Ireland and Former UN High-Commissioner, Marcus du Sautoy, Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University and five Nobel Laureates amongst others ([Digital Hub, 2012](#)).