discovery of a rapidly growing number of arena- and hantaviruses, their phylogeny and associations, and their specific rodent hosts. The virtual explosion of viruses identified in rodent reservoirs has left studies of their biologic, clinical, and epidemiologic correlates lagging; many of the newly discovered agents are orphan viruses. A report of local rodent surveys showed the presence of several hantaviruses in numerous species in Taiwan; human disease has not been recognized but epidemiologic studies are planned to define the spectrum and incidence of human infection. Approaches toward producing recombinant hantavirus vaccines and efforts to produce naked DNA vaccines for related vectorborne infections were reviewed.

Summaries of the recent emergence of dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever globally and on Taiwan led to a series of talks on dengue vaccine development. Various approaches were discussed, including candidate live attenuated vaccines, purified inactivated and recombinant subunit antigens, and infectious clone-derived viruses and their engineered chimeras. A similar session focused on Japanese encephalitis (JE), its changing ecology and epidemiology on Taiwan and regionally in Australia, the molecular taxonomy of JE viruses, and recent developments in producing much needed rapid diagnostic kits. The cellular and molecular basis of JE pathogenesis was addressed in a series of reports on the protective role of *bcl-2* in viral-induced apoptotic death, viral inhibitory activity of cell derived $NO_2$, and viral genetic determinants of virulence and attenuation. Alternatives to the only internationally accepted JE vaccine, the relatively reactogenic and expensive inactivated mouse brain-derived vaccine, were discussed, including the live-attenuated SA14-14-2 vaccine produced in China, a Vero cell-derived inactivated vaccine under development in Taiwan, and a chimeric JE vaccine engineered upon a yellow fever 17D virus infectious clone.

The final session concerned plague; it described the history and current status of plague globally and on Taiwan; reviewed new developments in the molecular taxonomy of *Yersinia pestis;* compared the performance characteristics of various serologic and PCR-based diagnostic tests; and described plague pathogenesis and vaccine development. F1 and V antigens were defined as important virulence factors in mouse and primate parenteral and aerosol challenge models. Preliminary studies indicate their promise as constituents of a recombinant subunit vaccine.

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## The 4th International Conference on Hantaviruses, Atlanta, Georgia March 5-7, 1998

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and cosponsors will host the 4th International Conference on Hantaviruses to allow exchange of scientific information on hantaviruses in the areas of epidemiology, clinical management, ecology, molecular biology, laboratory diagnostics, pathogenesis, drugs, and vaccine development.

The meeting will host plenary sessions with invited speakers as well as oral and poster sessions based on accepted abstracts.

Deadline for abstract submission is October 31, 1997. For more information, call 404-639-1510.

## International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Atlanta, Georgia, March 8-12, 1998

### Preliminary Information and Call for Abstracts

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (and other cosponsors) will convene a conference to 1) encourage the exchange of scientific and public health information on global emerging infectious disease issues, 2) highlight programs and activities that address emerging infectious disease threats, 3) identify program gaps, 4) increase emerging infectious disease awareness in the public health and scientific communities, and 5) enhance partnerships in addressing emerging infectious diseases.

The meeting will host plenary sessions and symposia with invited speakers as well as oral and poster sessions based on accepted abstracts. Major topics will include current work on the surveillance, epidemiology, research, and prevention of emerging infectious diseases as well as on emergency preparedness and response. Abstracts should address new, reemerging, or drug resistant infectious diseases that affect human health, e.g., foodborne, tropical, sexually transmitted, and respiratory diseases; diseases transmitted by animals and arthropods or acquired in health care settings; diseases in infants and children, immunodeficient persons, and minority and other populations at risk; and diseases related to blood safety and xenotransplantation.

Conference attendance will be limited to 2,500 participants. Deadline for abstract submission is October 31, 1997. Proceedings of the conference will be published in the Emerging Infectious Diseases journal.

For additional information on registration and abstract submission send an e-mail message to meetinginfo@asmusa.org or call 202-942-9248.

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## Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory Fellowship Program: Recruitment Begins for a Third Class of Fellows

The Emerging Infectious Diseases Advanced Laboratory Training Fellowship, a 1-year program designed for bachelors or master level scientists, emphasizes the practical application of technologies, methods, and practices related to emerging infectious diseases. Fellows participate in a core curriculum session at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Atlanta to gain a general understanding of the public health laboratory system and how it relates to infectious disease surveillance, prevention, research, and control. Fellows are placed within federal and state public health laboratories to receive advanced infectious disease laboratory-related training tailored to each fellow's areas of interest, high-priority laboratory personnel needs, and host laboratory capabilities.

The Emerging Infectious Diseases Post-Doctoral Laboratory Research Fellowship, a 2-year program designed for doctoral level (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M.) scientists, awards fellowships for the conduct of research or development in infectious diseases areas relevant to public health. This program's fellows also participate in the core curriculum session at CDC/Atlanta and are then placed within federal and state public health laboratories to conduct approved research.

For further information and application materials, contact EID Laboratory Fellowship Program, ASTPHLD, 1211 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 608, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone: 202-822-5227, fax: 202-887-5098. Fellowship application deadline: June 12, 1997.

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## Emerging Infections: Clinical and Pathologic Update II

This year, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology course on infectious disease (November 8-11, 1997) will be held in collaboration with Emory University School of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The course, which will be held at the Emory University Conference Center, will be directed by Drs. Ann Marie Nelson and C. Robert Horsburgh, Jr. and will focus on newly emerging and reemerging diseases (including yellow fever, dengue hemorrhagic fever, leptospirosis, AIDS, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, cholera, diphtheria, tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium avium* complex, chancroid, meningitis, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, fungal infections, malaria, babebiosis, filariasis, and emerging infections in captive wildlife). The course will also cover antibiotic resistance and the role of zoonotic infections and will feature a roundtable discussion of emerging infectious disease issues. The epidemiology and clinical features, as well as the pathology and pathogenesis of each disease, will be presented by experts in emerging infectious disease. An optional slide review session of 10 hours is available the day following the lecture series. (Approximately 30 CME credits)

For further information, contact the Department of Education Services, 14th and Alaska Ave., NW, Washington D.C. 20306-6000;