**Organic Bytes** • Weekly Newsletter of the Organic Consumers Association

Condensed version • Read the full version online: <a href="https://orgcns.org/OB819">https://orgcns.org/OB819</a> • Read more issues: <a href="https://orgcns.org/bytes">http://orgcns.org/bytes</a>

### The Biolab Work That Has Potential to Inflict Over a Billion Casualties

#### **Wisconsin Bill to Ban Gain-of-Function Biolabs**

The state of Wisconsin is home to the most notorious virologist on the planet doing the most dangerous lab work in the world.

Yoshihiro Kawaoka at the University of Wisconsin at Madison creates diseases far more deadly than COVID-19. His experiments (and lab safety breaches) have been so scary that they triggered an Obama Administration moratorium. Since the Trump Administration lifted the moratorium, Kawaoka has resumed the very same work.

As Sam Husseini reports in "Wisconsin Bill Would Stop Lab Work that Could Cause Catastrophic Pandemic," the Wisconsin state legislature might try to shut Kawaoka's mad science down again with a bill to prohibit institutions of higher education from conducting gain-of-function research on potentially pandemic pathogens.

Yoshihiro Kawaoka is an Anthony Fauci-funded scientist who, since 1990, has been receiving grants with titles including "Influenza Virus Assembly."

Highly pathogenic bird flu didn't cause disease in humans until Kawaoka had studied this potential in the lab for several years.

Read more: <a href="https://orgcns.org/3PveXJn">https://orgcns.org/3PveXJn</a>

TAKE ACTION: Ban GOF Research! https://orgcns.org/302GLVJ

### 71 High-Risk Human-Caused Pathogen Exposure Events

National Library of Medicine writes:

"Biological agents and infectious pathogens have the potential to cause very significant harm, as the natural occurrence of disease and pandemics makes clear. As a way to better understand the risk of Global Catastrophic Biological Risks due to human activities, rather than natural sources, this paper reports on a dataset of 71 incidents involving either accidental or purposeful exposure to, or infection by, a highly infectious pathogenic agent.

There has been significant effort put into both reducing the risk of purposeful spread of biological weapons, and biosafety intended to prevent the exposure to, or release of, dangerous pathogens in the course of research. Despite these efforts, there are incidents of various types that could potentially be controlled or eliminated by different lab and/or bioweapon research choices and safety procedures."

Read more: <a href="https://orgcns.org/3EOnmm7">https://orgcns.org/3EOnmm7</a>

#### **The Rise of Maximum Containment Laboratories**

Erik English writes:

"The world's deadliest diseases are studied in maximum containment laboratories, which trace their origins back to the first major outbreak of Marburg virus in Europe. The number of labs has grown significantly since the early 2000s and more labs are being planned in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These facilities play a crucial role in studying infectious diseases, including those with pandemic potential. However, the rapid expansion of these labs worldwide raises important questions around biosafety and biosecurity."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3Lx1kYI

# Sperm Counts, Testosterone Levels, and Women's Reproductive Health

#819: September 14, 2023

Richard Heinberg writes for Common Dreams:

"Nature is increasingly stewing in air- and water-borne toxins originating in industrial processes. Tens of thousands of chemicals, only a tiny proportion of which have been tested for safety, are making their way into the environment—from pharmaceuticals that have passed through human bodies, to plastics, pesticides, solvents, fire-retardants, and chemicals used in making cookware coatings. Recent research shows that whole classes of these chemicals are affecting sexuality and disrupting reproduction—not just in humans, but in a host of other animal species as well. But the whole subject is controversial and is getting far too little attention, partly because reproduction and sexuality are culturally sensitive topics, and partly because the chemicals industry wields considerable political power. In this article, we'll explore both the science and the controversy, and see why 2 percent is such a scary number in this context.

Read more: <a href="https://orgcns.org/3PvlZgS">https://orgcns.org/3PvlZgS</a>

## Microplastics May Be Harming Your Body and Brain

Analysis by Dr. Joseph Mercola: "We live in a throwaway society. The next time you're in a grocery store, take a look around you and note the number of items packaged in plastic. The problem is, many of these petroleum-based plastics will last forever. So we have products for short-term consumption packaged in materials that survive for centuries, endangering wildlife and human health alike all the while. Discarded plastic — both large and microscopic — circles the globe, choking our oceans and polluting our food supply, ultimately finding their way into your body where they can accumulate over time. In recent years, scientists have detected microplastic in all kinds of human tissues, including the placenta, lungs, spleen, liver, kidney, heart, brain and stool."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/453HBqH

### FBI Hoovering Up DNA at a Pace That Rivals China

Ken Klippenstein writes for The Intercept:

"The FBI began building a DNA database as early as 1990. By 1998, it helped create a national database called Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, that spanned all 50 states. Each state maintained its own database, with police or other authorities submitting samples based on their states' rules, and CODIS allowed all the states to search across the entire country. At first, the collection of data was limited to DNA from people convicted of crimes, from crime scenes, and from unidentified remains.

"If you look back at when CODIS was established, it was originally for violent or sexual offenders," Anna Lewis, a Harvard researcher who specializes in the ethical implications of genetics research, told The Intercept. "The ACLU warned that this was going to be a slippery slope, and that's indeed what we've seen."

Read more: <a href="https://orgcns.org/3ENXjLK">https://orgcns.org/3ENXjLK</a>