

Hall

Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2005 07:50:56 -0400
From: "Garrett, Benjamin C." <Benjamin.Garrett@ic.fbi.gov>
To: Matt Meselson <msm@wjh.harvard.edu>
Subject: FW: Information: Lab fined 500,000 in virus case

[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set.]
[Your display is set for the "US-ASCII" character set.]
[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly.]

Matt -

First, you might note that this email originates from an FBI account rather an AOL account. I have taken to using my FBI account because (1) it is easier to access, especially when large files are involved as attachments and (2) I keep asking myself why I bother to spend \$30 per month for AOL services that I don't use (except the email). Also, I think it is less confusing to folks who correspond with me for me to have an FBI email. This FBI account became available to me in the Spring, and I have liked it thus far. Therefore, you might expect to see future mailings from this address. I apologize for any confusion! Feel free to use with address in writing to me.

Second, I am forwarding information regarding a tragic abuse of academic and scientific "license". A professor from the University of Delaware (Last name: Rosenberger) colluded with Maine Biological Laboratory and a colleague overseas (Africa? Asia?) to have live Avian Flu Virus (AFV) shipped to the USA. The shipments were properly packaged, but the labelling was defective - knowingly, as import of live AFV was subject to certain controls (perhaps even prohibited - I forget). The goal was to develop an AFV vaccine. The goal was noble, but the motive was purely greed. They wished to beat other US researchers, and defective labelling gave them an advantage in the pursuit. Rosenberger retired from the University of Delaware when his involvement became known. I believe he suffered no other punishment. Other academic microbiologists with whom I have discussed the episode lament that Rosenberger was forced to retire over a rather small "administrative" fault. These folks seem blind to the potential harm that might have befallen the poultry industry if the AFV had gotten loose in the USA. The Bangor Daily News article being forwarded notes that rather serious fines have been levied. I have no idea whether Maine Biological Laboratory will prove able to pay these fines.

Regards
BEN

From: Anders, Douglas L.
Sent: Wed 8/10/2005 4:42 PM
To: Garrett, Benjamin C.
Subject: FW: Information: Lab fined 500,000 in virus case

Is this the Avian Influenza case that you have referred to in the past???

-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Bratcher [mailto:hbratche@leo.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2005 4:06 PM
To: Kerns, Terry L.; Woodbridge, Anne E.; Defino, Anthony R.; Tintle, Jason K.; Rosen, David; Anders, Douglas L.
Cc: Coward, Megan L.; Gellert, Marie G.; Varacalli, Michael F.; Muller, Jeffrey S.
Subject: FW: Information: Lab fined 500,000 in virus case
Importance: High

For the record books of Agroterrorism ... our first federal 'collar' (sort of).