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University of Arizona, Tucson

UA scientists prep for bio-terror attack

BY DEVIN SIMMONS
Staff Writer

More than 150 students, faculty and alumni from the College of Pharmacy will be dispensing medicine during a bio-terrorism drill starting today in Tucson, said David Von Behren, the college's spokesman.

The drill, part of a three-day bio-terrorism conference that has garnered national attention in wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the war on terror, is being held to test how a major metropolitan area anywhere in the country could respond to a biological terrorist attack. It will also help to prepare southern Arizona in case such an attack happened here, said Bryn Bailer, communications coordinator from the Pima County Health Department.

There will be a series of speeches today from national figures like Surgeon General Richard Carmona, formerly a University Medical Center surgeon. Conference members, including roughly 500 representatives from public safety and government agencies

across the world, will be given updates on a hypothetical terrorist attack in Tucson and must act as though the simulation is real.

Tomorrow, a package of medicine from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile will arrive in Tucson. The National Pharmaceutical Stockpile is a huge cache of medicines and vaccines stored in 10 different secret locations across the country and can be delivered to any location in the country within 12 hours.

A full package of medicine from one of these caches weighs about 50 tons, but the drill will only simulate the use of a small fraction of one cache, Bailer said.

On Friday, volunteer victims will arrive at the clinic and receive scenario cards describing their symptoms. They will be of different ages and different emotional states, Bailer said.

Members of the College of Pharmacy will be coordinating and helping to dispense

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Hull visit spotlights genomic research

BY JESSE GREENSPAN
Staff Writer

Gov. Jane Dee Hull visited campus yesterday to tour the respiratory science labs and other labs conducting research on human genes.

The tour began at the Life Sciences South building, where staff members explained the human genome project and how genetic factors affect populations.

The staff, led by research scientist and associate anthropology professor Michael Hammer, has been concentrating on how some of the 30,000 human genes work.

Hammer spoke about identifying gene traits ranging from people's different reactions to similar drugs to how gene variation can be used to link people with similar gene traits around the world.

"When I talk about genomics I am talking about the structure (and) function of all the

genes we have in our body," Hammer said. "When something goes wrong with a cell, it is usually related to how it is turned on or how it is turned off."

Hull's tour comes on the heels of this summer's announcement that Arizona will be home to the International Genomics Consortium, a research organization offered \$92 million in public and private pledges in June to make a home in Arizona. The IGC will involve researchers from Arizona's public universities.

"The working together of all three universities has been unbelievable," Hull said. "Eventually, we will have the ability to cure so many things before they happen."

Researchers in the Arizona Respiratory Center told Hull about how genomics can be used to help identify causes and cures of respiratory problems like asthma.

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SUSIE LEMONT/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Kick-start the day

Psychology freshman Max Pennington kicks a hacky-sack with his friends on the UA Mall. Pennington said that he has been disappointed with the lack of hacky-sacking on the Mall. Though forms of hacky-sack — which is now commonly known as footbag — can be found in many cultures, the activity was modernized in the late 1970s as a form of knee rehabilitation.



EMILY REID/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Scott Miller, a representative from Ayers Saint Gross architecture firm, describes the future of development at the UA at public presentation yesterday afternoon. The campus plan calls for growth toward University Medical Center, additional housing and parking garages over the next 15 years.

Plan focuses on bridging campus and health center

BY JAMES KELLEY
Staff Writer

A new plan for campus development for the next 15 years unveiled yesterday shows massive growth toward University Medical Center, additional housing and parking garages and looks toward reducing car traffic on campus.

In a meeting yesterday, planners looked at what campus space should be used for 10 to 15 years from now, and revamped a plan originally approved by the Arizona Board of Regents in 1988.

There are plans to build more parking garages, to add more on-campus housing and to move less essential departments off campus, so

fewer people have to drive to campus.

Planners want to reduce traffic by doubling the number of bikes on campus, discouraging driving to campus by raising permit prices, expanding CatTran service and working with SunTran to get inexpensive bus passes.

Perhaps the most visually overarching part of the plan is to better connect the campus from north to south with walkways and buildings, particularly the main campus south of East Speedway Boulevard with the Arizona Health Sciences Center complex and UMC. The plan is to build in the spaces where there are not now buildings, including the surface parking areas near UMC.

The Regents call for an update to the campus plan every five years. The new campus plan, which took 100 meetings in 2 years, is almost finished and will be presented to the regents for their comments in January, said David Duffy, director of campus and facilities planning.

"It's a land-use plan, not a construction project," Duffy said.

A second UA Mall may be built over North Warren Avenue, as well as a diagonal walkway to connect the area to the Highland underpass. The northern mall is designed to connect the "heart of whole AHSC," said Scott Miller, a

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