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 dispersing medicine during a bioterrorism drill starting today in Tucson, said David Von Behren, the college’s spokesman.

The drill, part of a three-day bioterrorism conference that has garnered national attention in wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack 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 Bailey, 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 hypothetical terrorist attack in Tucson and must act as though the simulation is real.

SOMTO 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 weights about 50 tons, but the drill will only simulate the use of a small fraction of one cache, Bailey 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, Bailey said.

Members of the College of Pharmacy will be coordinating and helping to dispense medicine during a bio-terrorism drill tomorrow.

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Kick-start the day

Psychology freshman Max Perenning kicks a hacky sack with his friends on the UA Mall. Perenning 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.

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 over the next 15 years, 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 by campus by raising permit prices, expanding CatTran service and working with SunTran to get inexpensive bus passes.

Perhaps the most visually interesting 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 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.