

discovery of a rapidly growing number of arenavirus 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<sub>2</sub>, 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.

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### **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.