

The widespread misuse of anti-microbial drugs has accelerated the emergence of new drug-resistant microorganisms. In addition, scientists are identifying, with remarkable frequency, a growing number of new infectious diseases along with microorganisms that cause previously unexplained chronic diseases.

In response to the threat of emerging infectious diseases, CDC developed a plan designed to safeguard our Nation's health. Entitled "Addressing Emerging Infectious Disease Threats: A Prevention Strategy for the United States", 1994, the plan was developed in cooperation with local and State public health officials, various Federal agencies, medical and public health professional associations, infectious disease experts from academia and clinical practice, and international and public service organization. The plan lays down CDC's domestic and international strategy for addressing emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats. The plan has four goals:

First, surveillance and response. The first goal is to improve the detection, investigation, and monitoring of emerging pathogens, the diseases they cause, and the factors influencing their emergence. Essential to this goal is an adequate laboratory capacity that assures accurate diagnosis of infectious diseases.

Second, research. The second goal is to integrate laboratory science with surveillance to optimize public health practice. CDC, in partnership with public agencies, universities, and private industry, will support research programs to address a number of pressing issues. They include: development and application of modern and rapid laboratory techniques for identification of new pathogens and drug-resistant organisms; determination of how behavioral factors influence emerging infections; and evaluation of the economic benefit of prevention and control strategies.

Third, prevention and control. The third goal is to enhance communication of public health information about emerging diseases. This would ensure prompt implementation of prevention strategies.

Fourth, infrastructure. The fourth goal is to strengthen infrastructure at local, State, and Federal public health levels. This includes plans for addressing the diminished capacity of health agencies to respond to infectious diseases. Critical losses in personnel over the past years have resulted in dangerous limitations in laboratory expertise. To respond to these losses, CDC has placed a top priority on building and maintaining expertise in rare or unusual diseases through the establishment of appropriate training programs for young health professionals.

CDC's initial efforts have focused resources on improving the capacity of the United States to address emerging infectious diseases through collaborations among State and local health de-

partments and academic institutions. Thus far, CDC has provided funds through cooperative agreements to 14 States and two large local health departments to enhance their ability to monitor and respond to infectious diseases, including foodborne disease, drug-resistant infections, and a variety of other infectious disease public health programs. Health departments have used these funds to improve State health laboratories, build epidemiologic capacity to investigate outbreaks, and develop electronic technology for disease reporting and tracking.

CDC has also begun developing a national network of emerging infections programs. This network will conduct special surveillance projects and develop and improve surveillance methods. Emerging infections programs [EIP] address a variety of infectious disease problems, including food- and water-borne disease caused by *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium*, tickborne diseases such as Lyme disease, and the newly recognized ehrlichiosis, and antibiotic resistance.

Through cooperative agreements with State health departments and their collaborators in local health departments and academic institutions, CDC has provided funds to establish the first four such programs in health departments in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Oregon; a fifth EIP will be initiated this year. As resources permit, CDC will institute three additional EIPs in fiscal year 1997 in other State health departments.

With new microbe threats confronting us daily, CDC had developed a public health microbiology fellowship program in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors. CDC has also reinstated an extramural research program that is focusing initially on tickborne disease and antibiotic resistance.

Although extensive work to address emerging infections has begun, substantial further effort is needed to strengthen defenses against potential disasters caused by infectious microorganisms. Long-term cooperation and partnerships are needed with clinicians, microbiologists, public agencies, universities, private industry, and communities. It is indeed critical that we all work together to ensure rapid, comprehensive responses to the microbial risks challenging the health of the world's population. I commend CDC on their 50th anniversary and on their outstanding effort to control and eliminate emerging infectious diseases.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/GUNS BILL

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this morning we had a discussion on the floor about legislation I am sponsoring to prohibit people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns.

My bill stands for the simple proposition that wife beaters and child abus-

ers should not have guns. It says: Beat your wife, lose your gun. Abuse your child, lose your gun. It's that simple. And it's really little more than common sense.

Mr. President, for many months, I had tried to include my proposal as part of the stalking bill. And, finally, on July 25, after agreeing to several changes at the request of my Republican colleagues, my legislation passed the Senate by voice vote.

Mr. President, the compromise we worked out was supported by the most ardent progun Members of this body. And we had an understanding that the leadership on both sides of the aisle would work to get the legislation passed promptly in the House.

Now we have just learned that the stalking bill has been inserted into the conference report on the DOD authorization bill—but without my amendment to keep guns away from wife beaters.

Mr. President, given the understanding that we had with the leadership, this news came as something as a shock to me.

Earlier this morning, there was a suggestion that somehow I was not respecting an agreement we had on this matter. And now this.

Mr. President, this is not how we should be doing business in this body.

Mr. President, I continue to be amazed at just how far the NRA and their supporters are willing to go to let wife beaters and child abusers get guns.

And I think the American people would share my outrage at this. Every year, thousands of women and children die at the hands of family members. And 65 percent of the time, these murderers use a gun.

There is no reason why wife beaters and child abusers should have guns. Only the most progun extremists could possibly disagree with that. Unfortunately, these same extremists have incredible power here in the Congress.

Mr. President, I want to make clear to my colleagues that I am not going to let this issue die. The lives of thousands of women and children are at stake. And I'm going to continue this battle for as long as it takes.

Members of Congress on both sides of Capitol Hill need to be held accountable on this. The public has got to know what's going on here.

Mr. President, I'm convinced that the overwhelming majority of Americans would agree.

Wife beaters should not have guns. Child abusers should not have guns. •

#### SALUTE TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE

• Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute today to an Idahoan who has overcome adversity to become an Olympic champion.

Dan O'Brien of Moscow last night won the Olympic decathlon gold medal and set an Olympic record with a score of 8,824 points, the sixth best mark