

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory & the Livermore Public Library

present



SCIENCE CHATS

A SERIES OF PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADING SCIENTISTS

Topic: How current technology and governmental policy affect our nation's biosecurity

Speaker: Dr. Paul Jackson, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Time: 7:00 – 8:30pm

Place: Livermore Public Library, Civic Center, Community Rooms A and B

Prior to the distribution of the anthrax letters in 2001, government scientists and officials were concerned about the possibility of the use of biological agents as a means to cause disease in humans, animals and crop plants. What was less anticipated was the role these agents could play in disrupting social institutions and placing food production and distribution at risk. While the anthrax letters themselves may have only impacted a small number of individuals, the social response was immense, causing us to focus on future detection techniques and countermeasures. Our country's economic trends in areas such as food production could put us at greater risk of social disruption if there were to be an intentional, accidental or natural contamination. Dr. Jackson will discuss how our nation is working to counteract these possible threats.

About the speaker



Paul J. Jackson received a BS in Cell Biology from the University of Washington in 1974 and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Utah in 1981. Dr. Jackson was a technical staff member for 24 years at Los Alamos National Laboratory where he focused on biothreat reduction research. Since 2005, Paul has been a senior scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and is currently the Division Leader of the Biosciences and Biotechnology Division. Paul's research has most recently focused on DNA-based methods of detecting and characterizing different microbial pathogens and toxins (microbial forensics) and on development of effective countermeasures to destroy or inactivate these materials. He has authored over 80 papers and holds six U.S. patents. He is a member of advisory boards for several federal agencies.



Science Chats are open to the public.

We encourage you to bring your family, friends and an open mind – come ready to learn and ask questions.

Questions? Please contact Rachael Mills, LLNL Public Affairs Office at 925-423-4769, mills20@llnl.gov