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"Rummaging in the government's attic"

Description of document: Dr. Bruce Ivins emails provided by

TheEnterpriseReport.com

Email Batch Nine

Released date: 2009

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Date/date range of documents: 14-June-1999 – 04-May-2000

Source of document: US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command

Fort Detrick, MD

Note: See following page for other related material available from

governmentattic.org

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THE ENTERPRISE REPORT - The Enterprise Report.com

is an online investigative news site founded and published by award-winning Producer/Investigative Journalist Eric Longabardi. The site was named Best Online Website by the LA Press Club in 2008.

Eric Longabardi is a national award winning broadcast producer and investigative journalist with a career spanning nearly two decades. Longabardi has reported extensively on a wide variety issues related to the US Defense Department's research into biological and chemical weapons over the years. He has also reported extensively on the FBI 'Amerithrax" investigation of Dr. Bruce Ivins, the Fort Detrick, Maryland biowarfare scientist the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) claims was the person responsible for mailing Anthrax letters which killed five people and sickened 17 others in 2001. Longabardi was the first journalist to disclose the movements and detail the "window of opportunity" of Dr. Ivins on the dates the Anthrax letters were mailed and detail his whereabouts at the Fort Detrick Laboratory where he worked during the dates in question.

The nine batches of emails provided to governmentattic.org were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) by journalist Eric Longabardi beginning on January 22, 2009.

All of this material is available at governmentattic.org.

This file is: Email Batch Nine:	DrBrucelvinsEmail_Nine.pdf	381 KB
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The other available files are:

The Release letter:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_ReleaseLetter.pdf</u>	30 KB
Email Batch One:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_One.pdf</u>	7 MB
Email Batch Two:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_Two.pdf</u>	170 KB
Email Batch Three:	DrBruceIvinsEmail_Three.pdf	264 KB
Email Batch Four:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_Four.pdf</u>	176 KB
Email Batch Five:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_Five.pdf</u>	124 KB
Email Batch Six:	<u>DrBruceIvinsEmail_Six.pdf</u>	130 KB
Email Batch Seven:	DrBruceIvinsEmail_Seven.pdf	145 KB
Email Batch Eight:	DrBruceIvinsEmail_Eight.pdf	221 KB
All above material in one PDF:	DrBruceIvinsEmail_All.pdf	6.2 MB

To: (b) (

Subject: RE: CpG and guinea pigs

Date: Friday, April 21, 2000 10:27:10 AM

Hi, (b) (6)

Groups that got oligo alone did not do any better than groups that got none. If we inject 300 micrograms of CpG oligonucleotides in our next experiment, I may need to get some more. I'll let you know. We still have to run ELISAs, and I'm hoping they will be done next week. I'll be sure to tell you what we got when the ELISA data come in.

- Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2000 11:08 AM

To: 'Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID' Subject: RE: CpG and guinea pigs

Dear Bruce,

I'm sorry you didn't see better results. The oligos should be fine for months if stored at 40 C. Were there any groups that got oligo alone, and how did they do?

In terms of dose, in a study involving cotton rats, we found that using 300 ug of CpG oligo with antigen gave a more reproducible boost in immunity than 100 ug, without toxicity. Thus, we could go up in dose.

Give me a call one of these days, and we can discuss it further.

Hope all is well,

(b) (6)

----Original Message-----

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID (6) Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2000 9:41 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: CpG and guinea pigs

Hi, (b) (6)

So far, it appears that there was no non-antigen-specific protection afforded, either with respect to increased survival or increased time to death. The immunized animals are still occasionally dying, so no data are available yet, but it looks as if there is not much specific protection there either. I'm very interested to do the ELISA titers on the animals to see if there is any increase in antibody titers in the animals given vaccine + CpG oligos. If we don't see increased titers, I'd suggest that we dilute the vaccine down and test with or without CpG oligos to see if titers are improved. If we were using a dose which gave us a maximum antibody response, we may not have been able to see a stimulation in the immune response. QUESTIONS:

- a) Can we use the same preps (we still have material) or should we use fresh oligos?
- b) We used 100 microliters (100 micrograms) of the CpG oligos previously. Would it be beneficial to increase the dose somewhat?

Please let me know your thoughts. I will get you the final death/survival data when the guinea pigs have finished dying. We'll get you the antibody data as soon as we can do the ELISAs.

P.S. All of us thought your seminar was just great - extraordinarily interesting!



To: (b) (6

Subject: RE: CpG and guinea pigs

Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2000 9:41:16 AM

Hi, (b) (6)

So far, it appears that there was no non-antigen-specific protection afforded, either with respect to increased survival or increased time to death. The immunized animals are still occasionally dying, so no data are available yet, but it looks as if there is not much specific protection there either. I'm very interested to do the ELISA titers on the animals to see if there is any increase in antibody titers in the animals given vaccine + CpG oligos. If we don't see increased titers, I'd suggest that we dilute the vaccine down and test with or without CpG oligos to see if titers are improved. If we were using a dose which gave us a maximum antibody response, we may not have been able to see a stimulation in the immune response.

QUESTIONS:

- a) Can we use the same preps (we still have material) or should we use fresh oligos?
- b) We used 100 microliters (100 micrograms) of the CpG oligos previously. Would it be beneficial to increase the dose somewhat?

Please let me know your thoughts. I will get you the final death/survival data when the guinea pigs have finished dying. We'll get you the antibody data as soon as we can do the ELISAs.

P.S. All of us thought your seminar was just great - extraordinarily interesting!

- Bruce

----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2000 9:00 AM

To: 'Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID' Subject: RE: CpG and guinea pigs

Dear Bruce,

Any results from the most recent CpG studies?

(b) (6)

----Original Message-----

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID (6) (6) Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2000 7:38 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: CpG and guinea pigs

Hi, (b) (6)

We are currently in the middle of our experiment testing the ability of the CpG oligos to stimulate specific or non-antigen-specific protection against intramuscular anthrax spore challenge in guinea pigs. We currently have no data but here are the groups:

- 1) These guinea pigs will receive i.m. in the right and left rear thighs 0.05 ml (100 micrograms total) of non-CpG oligonucleotides 6 days before i.m. challenge in the right rear thigh with 100 LD50 of B. anthracis Ames spores. These animals will be the negative controls.
- 2) These guinea pigs will receive i.m. 100 micrograms (administered as above) of CpG oligonucleotides 6 days before challenge.
 - 3) These guinea pigs will receive i.m. 100 micrograms (administered

as above) of of CpG oligonucleotides 10 days before challenge.

- 4) These guinea pigs will receive 0.25 ml of AVA human anthrax vaccine in both the right and left rear thighs at 0 and 4 weeks. At 10 weeks, they will be challenged as above.
- 5) These guinea pigs will receive 0.25 ml of AVA human anthrax vaccine + 0.05 ml of CpG oligos in both the right and left rear thighs at 0 and 4 weeks. At 10 weeks, they will be challenged as above.
- 6) These guinea pigs will receive 0.25 ml of AVA human anthrax vaccine in both the right and left rear thighs at 0 and 4 weeks. Six days before challenge they will be CpG oligos as above. At 10 weeks, they will be challenged as above.

One week before challenge, all animals will be bled for anti-PA ELISA titers.

Hope this is helpful, (b) (6) Any more questions, please contact me.

To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: Trip to BioPort

Date: Monday, April 24, 2000 1:23:28 PM

>----Original Message-----

>From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID >Sent: Monday, April 24, 2000 1:21 PM

>To: (b) (6)

>Subject: Trip to BioPort

(b) (6)

>

> These are some comments on our trip to BioPort for the compiled trip report you are making:

>A number of items were discussed with respect to the AVA potency test and related procedures. Among them were the following:

>1) With respect to the method used for quantitating the number of spores used to challenge guinea pigs, it was recommended that BioPort change change from a pour plate procedure to a more accurate (and more easily accomplished) spread plate procedure.

>2) The remaining B. anthracis Vollum 1B spores of lot 189-2 have been suspended in approximately 0.1% phenol instead of 1% phenol (the usual phenol concentration for storing anthrax spores). Since this may have an effect on viability, it was recommended that a viability determination be conducted on the spores before and after heat shock at 60C.

>3) Also, since phenol is used to eliminate contamination of spore preparations, it was recommended that some of lot 189-2 be plated out onto sheep blood agar to look for the possible presence of contaminants.

>4) Since there is only a small amount of lot 189-2 spores left, it was felt that the most important experiments to be initially done were "bridging" experiments with lot 189-4, which would compare the two lots with respect to virulence, and would lead to lot 189-4 becoming the standard lot for challenge in the potency test.

>5) It was felt that over the years, BioPort's guinea pigs may have genetically changed and become more susceptible to anthrax infection. (Data were presented showing that the animals of today were gaining weight more rapidly than they did 20 years ago.) It was strongly recommended that BioPort guinea pigs be tested alongside guinea pigs from commercial sources to compare susceptibilities.

>6) Lot 189-4 spores spores are in aliquots in 81 freezer tubes. It was suggested that each year, 1 tube be removed and diluted 1:100 in 1% phenol, then put into aliquots. In this manner, the 189-4 lot would last 81 years.

>7) Guinea pigs of different ages and weights were recently tested in the potency test. It was found that animals 28 days old failed the test, whereas animals 42 days old passed the test. It was suggested that the animals in the potency test may be better defined by age rather than by weight. It was also suggested that the oldest and heaviest animals allowable be used in the potency test.

>8) The next experiment to be done will be a "pilot study" in BioPort guinea pigs, 8 per group, 500 to 600 g in weight, given intradermal injections of 500, 50, or 5 spores from lot 189-4. The survival values in this study will be used to determine the spore challenge doses in the following experiment. (They will be used to approximate where the LD50 value lies.)

>

- >9) The experiment after the previous one will be a comparison of the intradermal LD50 values in BioPort and Charles River guinea pigs challenged with spores from lots 189-2 and 189-4. This experiment should determine the relative virulence of the 2 spore preparations as well as the relative susceptibilities of guinea pigs from the two sources.
- >10) It was learned from (6) (6) that all of the fermentors used to grow the B. anthracis V770-NP1-R culture leak to different degrees. Suggestions were made as to where the leaks were occurring and how to fix them.
- >11) It was also learned from (b) (6) that the growth medium for the B. anthracis V770-NP1-R contains sodium bicarbonate that has been sterilized by autoclaving. Since the production of protective antigen requires bicarbonate, and since autoclaving converts sodium bicarbonate to sodium hydroxide and carbon dioxide, it was strongly recommended to BioPort that a Prior Approval Supplement (PAS) be submitted to the FDA to change the method of sterilization of sodium bicarbonate from autoclaving to filtration. This step should improve potency test performance of the vaccine (by increasing the amount of protective antigen produced) and thus improve acceptability of the individual vaccine lots.

To: (b) (6)
Subject: RE: contract

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 11:39:37 AM

Hi, (b)

(6) I just sent a "nudge" to (b) (6) on this, asking him where it was, and asking if there is anything I can personally do to move this along. I'll get back to you (hopefully very soon) as soon as I find out where we are.

It's a good thing we don't fight conflicts this way! We'd still be requisitioning horses for the Spanish-American War.

Take Care!!

- Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 10:16 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Bruce Ivins (E-mail) Subject: RE: contract

Sorry, I am still waiting for the signed documents. There has been progress) but I don't know when we will receive the signed agreement.

By copy of this to Bruce Ivins of USAMRIID, I am hoping to nudge this process along so that we may sign the contract with Loews and start the ball rolling. Thanks for the friendly reminder, the process along so that we may sign the contract with Loews and start the ball rolling.

(b) (6)

American Society for Microbiology 1752 N Street NW Washington, DC 20036

(b) (b)

(b) (6)

> -----Original Message----> From (b) (6)
> Sent: Friday, April 21, 2000 10:56 AM
> To: (b) (6)
> Subject: contract
>
> Hi (b) ...hope all is well with you as per my voice mail, just a
> qu(6) note
> to check on the status of the contract....please let me know.....my direct
> line

Best wishes, (b) (6)

>

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID

To:

Subject: FW: CBER Letter to Industry-BSE Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 4:19:17 PM

Attachments: CBER Letter on BSE.pdf

>----Original Message-----

>From: (b) (6)

>Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 3:37 PM

>To:

Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID; (b) (6)

>Subject: CBER Letter to Industry-BSE

>Attached is a recent Letter to Industry to Manufacturers of Biological Products on the use of ruminantderived materials in the manufacture of regulated products.

>

>Office of Product Development and Regulatory Affairs

>United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID

To: (b) (6)

Subject: RE: contract

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 4:17:28 PM

Thanks, (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 3:17 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID; (b) (6)

Subject: FW: contract

Hi (b) (6) I received a signed copy of the Form 9 back from acquisition April 11th. ASM needs to hear from us soon in order to get hotel contracts signed. I know you guys are extremely busy but could you give me a time frame as to when we could have a signed contract. Thanks, (b) (6)

----Original Message-----

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID Sen<u>t: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 11</u>:36 AM

To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: contract

Hi, (b) (6)

How are we coming along with this contract? Will it be ready to go to the ASM soon? If there is anything that I can do or (b) (6) at the ASM can do to help the process along, please let us know. The sooner we can get this taken care of, the better.

Thanks a lot!!

- Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 10:16 AM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: Bruce Ivins (E-mail) Subject: RE: contract

Sorry, I am still waiting for the signed documents. There has been progress) but I don't know when we will receive the signed agreement.

By copy of this to Bruce Ivins of USAMRIID, I am hoping to nudge this process along so that we may sign the contract with Loews and start the ball rolling. Thanks for the friendly reminder, the process along so that we may sign the contract with Loews and start the ball rolling.

(b) (6) (b) (6)

American Society for Microbiology 1752 N Street NW Washington, DC 20036

(b) (b)

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> -----Original Message-----
> From: (b) (6)
> Sent: Friday, April 21, 2000 10:56 AM
> To: (b) (6)
> Subject: contract
>
> Hi (b) ...hope all is well with you .... as per my voice mail, just a
> qu(6) note
> to check on the status of the contract....please let me know.....my direct
> line
> is(b) (6)

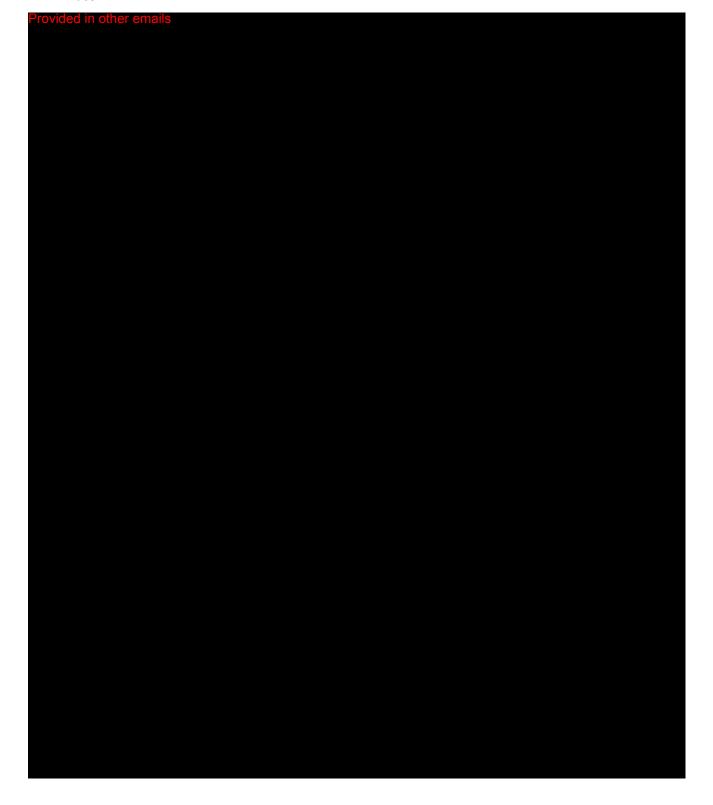
Best wishes, (b) (6)
```

From: <u>Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID</u>

To: (b) (6)

Date: Monday, May 01, 2000 10:16:37 AM

(6) Here is where we stand on (b) (6) I think that CRM is going to build into the contract about \$2000 for education and a 10% raise, right?



Provided in other emails		

To: (b) (6)
Subject: B. anthracis strains

Date: Monday, May 01, 2000 3:33:43 PM

Hi, (6) It was great to see you at the NIH (6) (6) last week. I was very much interested in your comments on the various B. anthracis strains you have, especially Kruger A, Kruger B, and the strains

from China. (The Kruger strains that we have received from (b) (6) include 1960A (ASIL K3878), K1 (ASIL K1769) and S35 (ASIL K1373). If you would be willing to collaborate, we would be interested in receiving some of the above strains, and any other strains you feel would be especially worthwhile in studying in animal hosts. You would of course be an author on any paper that came of the virulence study work. What we would do is initially screen the virulence in immunized guinea pigs, then take the most virulent strains into rabbits and monkeys.

I hope you had a good trip back to (b) (6) I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ivins

USAMRIID Bacteriology Division

(b) (6)

Yes, I am requesting a sole-source extension for (b) (6) on the CRM contract (CRM; since she has the shots necessary for working in both buildings. It would be too costly and time-consuming to bring another person into this position through a competitive TORP. The last day of the current task order is (6) The current SOW will be acceptable. I would definitely like to be able to extend the contract after July 2001. If there is a special form or memorandum I need to send you to request a sole-source extension, please let me know. Otherwise, this letter can be considered a request for a sole-source extension of (b) (6) contract. Thank you. - Bruce Ivins **USAMRIID Bacteriology Division** (b) (6) >----Original Message----->From: (b) (6) >Sent: Monday, May 01, 2000 7:35 AM >To: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID RE:(b) (6) CRM contract >Subject: >Importance: High >What I need from you is a request for a sole-source extension with this individual due to her having the necessary shots to work in the BL3 or 4 facilities within RIID and that it would be too timely and costly to bring another individual into this position through a competitive TORP. When does this task order expire? I will be out the rest of this week on TDY and will not return until next Monday. If there are any changes to the SOW let me know if not I will just have CRM give me a cost estimate for another years worth of service. Would you like for them to propose an option year or two for your consideration, so when the next year is over you have the option to extend it or not? Let me know. >Thanks >Contract Specialist, USAMRAA > -----Original Message-----From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID > Sent: Monday, May 01, 2000 7:22 AM > To: > Subject: CRM contract > Hi, (b) (<mark>6)Wi</mark>th r<u>esp</u>ect to my lab's(b) (6)), we would like to request a one-year extension on the contract. I talked to both here and at CRM, and they told me that I needed to ask you for the extension. Please let me know if there's anything else I need to do, such as modify the statement of work slightly or the requirements for shots. (She now has all the shots necessary to work in both (b) as a result she is able to do more in the lab.) > Thanks for your help. >

Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID

Monday, May 01, 2000 10:03:19 AM

CRM contract

From: To: Subject:

Date:

- Bruce Ivins

From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID

To:

Subject: FW: PA Comparison

Date: Tuesday, May 02, 2000 10:38:34 AM

Hi, (b)

(6)Thought you might like to see the final survival data on the experiment comparing the PA from our Sterne CR4 strain with E. coli PA.

- Bruce

>----Original Message-----

>From: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID >Sent: <u>Tuesday, May 02, 2000 10:37 AM</u>

>To: (b) (6)

>Subject:

FW: PA Comparison

> > >

> > > > > > These are the final survival data (survivors/total challenged):

DOSE OF PA (mic	rograms) MARP PA	Avant PA	
25	8/10	4/10	
5	3/10	4/10	
1	2/10	2/10	
0.2	1/10	0/10	
0.08	0/10	0/10	

> > >

> > > > >

After we get ELISA data, we can hopefully choose between the two PA preps. If we don't have enough data to make a rational choice, I suggest the following experiment:

- 10 male and 10 female rabbits 25 micrograms MARP PA
- 10 male and 10 female rabbits 25 micrograms Avant PA
- 4 male and 4 female rabbits 8 micrograms PA

> >

> >

Challenge at 4 weeks by aerosol as before.

To: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: Grant for Anthrax Conference
Date: Tuesday, May 02, 2000 10:49:34 AM
Attachments: FEB 2000 Certs - Assurances .doc

FEB 2000 REPS-.doc

Importance: High

We are now really in a bind on this. wants to know if a Memorandum of Understanding would rather than a contract would be better. We don't want to lose this. Whatever we need to do we should, and do it as soon as possible. If a MUA would work better, let's go with it. Thanks.

- Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2000 10:41 AM

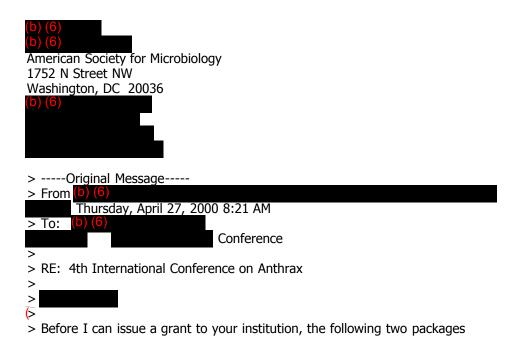
To: Bruce Ivins (E-mail)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: Grant for Anthrax Conference

Hi, Bruce. Soon you will get a copy of an email from the Loews giving us mere hours to sign the contract or lose the rooms. Below I have forwarded you some documents sent to me by your procurement office that ASM must complete to be awarded this contract. I apologize, but the Army has stumped me on the first one - it is for "Grants of \$100,000 or more". ASM's management fee is nowhere near that amount, and the money coming to us will not be from the Army, but taken from individual registration fees. The first form makes me uncomfortable, and seems inapporpriate to this task.

I suggest that we go back to the beginning, and approach this from a different angle. How do you think a Memo of Understanding between ASM and the Army would be handled, rather than the contract I previously submitted?



To: (b) (6)

>

Subject: FW: PA Comparison

Date: Tuesday, May 02, 2000 10:37:18 AM

These are the final survival data (survivors/total challenged):

DOSE OF PA (micrograms)	Marp pa	Avant PA
25	8/10	4/10
5	3/10	4/10
1	2/10	2/10
0.2	1/10	0/10
0.08	0/10	0/10

After we get ELISA data, we can hopefully choose between the two PA preps. If we don't have enough data to make a rational choice, I suggest the following experiment:

10 male and 10 female rabbits - 25 micrograms MARP PA

10 male and 10 female rabbits - 25 micrograms Avant PA

4 male and 4 female rabbits - 8 micrograms PA

Challenge at 4 weeks by aerosol as before.

 From:
 Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID

 To:
 (b) (6)

 Subject:
 RE: (b) (6)
 s CRM contract

 Date:
 Tuesday, May 02, 2000 9:01:30 AM

I think that a total of \$2,000 per year would cover expenses for training and education, at least for the first year. Thanks.

- Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) USAMRIID
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2000 9:00 AM
To: Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID
Subject: (b) (6) CRM contract

Bruce, Based upon our discussion the other day, I believe you indicated that you wanted an additional \$2000 placed on top of the \$1200 training account that C.R.M. puts in place for all our employees?! Setting it up this way would provide (b) (6) w/a \$3200 education/training account. Of course this is based on what courses/direction she is pursuing?! Please let me know which training figure you were thinking of?

Thanks Bruce. (b) (6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) Sent: Monday, May 01, 2000 11:31 AM

To: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Yes, I knew we would do a 10% raise on (b) (6) when her contract renews at the anniversary date. Regarding the training funds, we will have to be sure of precisely how much he wants. We do have the \$1200 company funds and we'll need to know if he wants \$800 on top of that or an additional \$2000 for a total of \$3200. We have not received the TORP on this yet so we still have time.



To: (b) (6)

<u>Ivins, Bruce E Dr USAMRIID</u>

Subject: RE: PA Comparison

Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2000 3:15:31 PM

Attachments: MARP-PA vs Avant-PA.doc

For the B00-03 rabbit challenge (comparison of MARP-PA vs. Avant-PA):

Attached is the survival data with P values

To: Bruce Ivins; (b) (6)

Subject: Contract signed!

Date: Thursday, May 04, 2000 7:40:19 AM

Just an update on the 2001 International Anthrax meeting: (b) (6) of the ASM called yesterday to say that the contract with the Loews Hotel has been signed. (Yes!) We are now under agreement with the ASM to put this meeting on. (Yes!) said that the next thing she would like to get together on is the program.