

# Fauci's Feeding Frenzy

Anthrax funded bio-science into the behemoth it is today

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**NYT, Feb 4, 2002:** *Spending to protect the United States against germ weapons began increasing under President Bill **Clinton**, .. but many of Mr. Clinton's requests were **cut by his own Office of Management and Budget or the Congress, which remained skeptical.***

**Spurred** by the spate of anthrax-filled letters that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Bush administration has decided to seek \$11 billion over two years to **protect** the nation against biological terrorism, a far larger amount than even bio defense experts had expected.

Dr. Anthony S. **Fauci**, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, said the huge infusion of federal aid for basic and **applied** research was likely to be "**transforming**."

**Dr. Fauci:** *The \$1.75 billion request for the National Institutes of Health alone is the biggest single-year request for any discipline or institute in the history of the N.I.H. This is the first time that an extraordinary amount of money is being increased **expressly for bioterrorism** rather than for the general enhancement of capabilities.*

**NYT:** *The budget also calls for increasing the national supply of "**push packs**" -- the preassembled packages containing life-saving antidotes, drugs and other medical supplies that can be sent to the sites of terrorist attacks or **mysterious infectious outbreaks***

*Dr. Fauci is expected to travel with President Bush to Pittsburgh on Tuesday to announce details of the administration's biodefense plans.*

**Dr. Fauci:** *You need appropriate facilities to **work on dangerous microbes** that can be used for **weapons**, and we must **jump-start** our efforts to get new facilities and expertise into existing centers of biological excellence*

**NYT:** *Dr. Fauci said he was putting the **final touches** on a strategic plan for spending the new money at his institute, which is scheduled to receive a 61 percent increase.*

*He said he would spend about \$441 million of the \$1.75 billion budget on basic research, some \$592 million on **drug** and **vaccine** discovery and development, \$194 million on **trials of new drugs**, and \$522 million on new research **laboratories** at federal, university and **industry** facilities.*

*Some \$600 million will go to the **Pentagon**, .. much of it at the United States Army laboratory at **Fort Detrick, Md.**, which **conducted biological weapons research** before such weapons were **banned** in **1969**, and now develops antidotes to and **defenses** against such pathogens. **The***

**laboratory** has been **heavily involved** in trying **to analyze the origins** and source of the anthrax letters sent to the Senate and to media outlets in New York and Florida.\*

The budget also devotes \$10 million to creating a **team of epidemiological scientists** .. who will work with their **foreign counterparts** (on) .. **mysterious disease outbreaks** and **share** news about promising new **drugs** and **antidotes**.

It earmarks another \$20 million for the centers' **Epidemiological Intelligence** Service, established in 1951 as an early-warning system against **biological warfare**. \*

**Dr Fauci, 2011, 10-year anniversary:** *What stands out most to me about the 2001 anthrax attacks is the notion that from that point on, **bioterror was a reality and no longer an abstract concept**. .. (T)he attacks really were a wake-up call.*

Through the anthrax response, we built both a **physical** and an **intellectual infrastructure** that can be used to respond to a **broad range** of emerging health **threats**.

**The result** is that today we are in a **much better** position — from the perspective of both the research **pipeline** and public health preparedness.

\* Fort Detrick, Md., was the laboratory heavily involved in the origin of the anthrax letters.

\* Seeding money for the Prox-O-5, EcoHealth