

United States House of Representatives



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

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Shays to Hold Hearing on WMD Countermeasures

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing to assess the process used to identify and evaluate countermeasures to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

The hearing, *“Elusive Antidotes: Progress Developing Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Countermeasures”*, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2:00 pm, room 2154 Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

“Those looking to advance medical countermeasures face a tortured labyrinth of federal offices and programs,” Shays said, “It’s a rat’s maze of fiefdoms into which hundreds of millions of dollars has been poured, but from which almost nothing useful has emerged.”

Numerous federal departments and agencies fund CBRN countermeasure development programs, including DOD, DHS, NIH, and HHS through Project BioShield. Last year, a report by the Institute of Medicine found, “The biodefense efforts of the Department of Defense are poorly organized to develop and license vaccines, therapeutic drugs, and antitoxins to protect members of the armed forces against biological warfare agents.”

Shays said, “The clock is ticking down to the all but inevitable day we are attacked at home or on a distant battlefield using unconventional weapons. Even with the advent of Project BioShield, the development of critical countermeasures still seems fractured and without a clear focus on known threats. Precious time and money are being wasted.”

Committee on Government Reform
Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats, and International Relations
**“Elusive Antidotes: Progress Developing Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)
Countermeasures”**
(June 14, 2005)

Witness List

PANEL ONE

Dr. Dale Klein

Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs
Department of Defense

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID)
National Institute of Health

Mr. Stewart Simonson

Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. John Vitko, Jr.

Director of Biological Countermeasures
Science and Technology Directorate
Department of Homeland Security

Dr. Ronald Saldarini

Scientific Consultant
Institute of Medicine

PANEL TWO

Dr. Michael G. Hanna Jr.

Chief Scientific Officer
Intracel

Dr. James H. Davis

Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Human Genome Sciences, Inc