



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Ryan Kilpatrick**, CG&A, (312) 335-0100
Holly Dotterer, CG&A, (312) 335-0100

Is the U.S. Prepared for a Catastrophic Outbreak? *Science Chicago Explores Bioterrorism, Pandemics and Vaccines*

CHICAGO [January 6, 2009] – Ebola...Bird Flu...Anthrax...So far, the United States has been spared from such catastrophic outbreaks, but as international travel to and from the U.S. increases – and the threat of bioterrorism becomes more of a reality – what is being done to defend our nation and its inhabitants from potentially deadly infections?

Science Chicago, in partnership with the Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C²ST), will explore these issues in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium at the Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Olaf Schneewind, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Great Lakes Regional Center for Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research, will lead a panel discussion on the challenges of infectious disease research and the urgent need for dynamic national policies and evolving solutions.

“Through discussions like this one, Science Chicago is helping to place science firmly at the center of public attention,” said David Mosen, President and CEO of the Museum of Science and Industry and Vice-Chair of the Board of Advisors of Science Chicago. “We need to be informed and equipped to join conversations about the important issues of our time. Engaging with science is part of being a citizen of this century.”

“It is critical, especially at this time of national leadership change, that we examine the intersections of science and national security policy,” said Alan Schriesheim, President of C²ST. “Indeed, biodefense is just one of many pressing policy issues of which science is at the heart.”

The presentation is part of Science Chicago, a year-long awareness initiative aimed at making science more accessible for the public and encouraging science education.

The Harold Washington Library Center is located at 400 South State Street. This event is free, but reservations are required. Please email rsvp@sciencechicago.com for reservations.

###

About Science Chicago

Spearheaded by the Museum of Science and Industry, Science Chicago is a collaboration of more than 100 public and private institutions that have come together to present the world's largest science celebration. Designed to awaken the inner scientist in each and every one of us, thousands of dynamic and interactive activities will provide hands-on learning; spur thoughtful debate; enhance classroom learning; and build enthusiasm for the pursuit of cutting-edge science while establishing the critical value of science and math education.

For more information, visit www.sciencechicago.com.

About Chicago Council on Science and Technology

C²ST seeks to be the preeminent regional consortium for science- and technology-related education and policy and a prominent voice nationally. C²ST's vision is to become a leading partner, coordinator and host of the Chicagoland science and technology community for giving visibility to, and raising the public awareness of science and technology in Chicagoland.

For more information on Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C²ST), visit www.c2st.org.