



PROTECTING OUR HEALTH

PCs Contribute To Biological Weapons Research

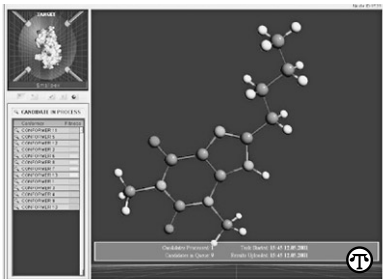
(NAPSA)—If you have a computer, at home or at the office, you can contribute to the ongoing fight against bio-terrorism.

All you have to do is download a free, non-intrusive software application—much like a screen saver. Then, when the computer is idle, the program will work to uncover small-molecule drug candidates to fight the post-exposure effects of potential biological weapons, including anthrax and smallpox.

Participants don't even have to be connected to the Internet to donate their computer time. In return, they receive down-to-earth visual explanations that demonstrate the progress in the fight against exposure to biological weapons—for which there are currently no cures.

This privately funded project, known as the Drug Design and Optimization Lab (D2OL), is designed to use emerging distributed computing technology to help reduce public anxiety surrounding biological weapons. The project was developed by Sengent, Inc., an emerging leader in computing and information solutions for the scientific and financial communities. The company is also teaming with Sun Microsystems in the effort to rapidly accelerate identification of drugs against biological weapons.

The D2OL will leverage current libraries of more than two million small-molecule compounds. Its focus is to test against real compounds that can be readily tested in a lab once identified by the analysis process as showing significant promise. That's where your computer comes in—the work is distributed among many processors to, hopefully, speed the discov-



By downloading a simple, free computer program, you can help fight bio-terrorism.

ery of potential cures. Presently, Sengent is experiencing peak downloads of one per minute.

“The realistic threat of biological weapons and bio-terrorism increases the urgency in advancing structure-based design technology. Bacterial pathogens selected or bred as biological weapons kill in different ways. Most antibiotics are completely ineffective against weaponized bacteria once an individual has been exposed,” explains Doug Nassaur, Sengent Chief Operating Officer. “A small-molecule drug can neutralize a toxin that may have been produced by a bacteria in the same way antidotes are used to neutralize the effect of snake bites.”

The Drug Design and Optimization Lab was established to expedite and lower the cost of identifying drugs capable of addressing general health issues. This initiative signifies a major advance in drug discovery by focusing “distributed technology” to optimize the testing of real chemical compounds more quickly and effectively to rapidly combat biological threats.

To download and learn more, visit the Web site at www.sengent.com.