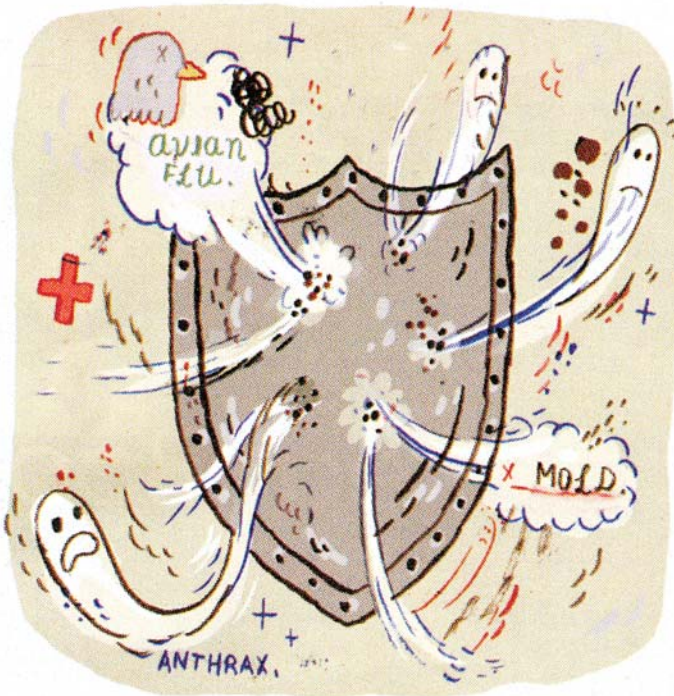


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BusinessWeek

DEFENSE SYSTEM

Breathe Deep Against Bacteria



Doctors at MD Anderson Cancer Center have come up with an aerosol spray that one day may be able to shield humans from pathogens ranging from pneumonia bacteria to avian flu virus to bioweapons. When inhaled, the Aerosolized Lung Innate Immune Stimulant (Aliis) immediately triggers a strong local immune reaction. Mice given Aliis two hours before exposure to pneumonia bacteria had an 83% survival rate, and all of those treated 4 to 24 hours before exposure survived, while all the untreated mice died within days. The team got similar results testing the spray against bugs that cause bubonic plague and anthrax, as well as various molds and viruses. The doctors have formed a company, Pulmo-tect, to develop the spray, and hope to start human testing in mid-2009.