

STANDARD DEVIATIONS: Watch Out!

Wait,

Biosafety. There, that's over.

No, really. Let's take a break; I'm in no hurry to bore you again. Today's newsletter is just a website and TV recommendation. They're field related and interesting, and we can both dispense with my ranting and just get some entertaining information. I think you'll get something from these, no, really.

Here's the website. *A little bit of history about your author. I started in 1980 doing mixed lymphocyte culture (MLC) for renal transplants. Then, at Primary Children's Hospital in 1981, I hired on as a Cytogenetics technologist, growing, staining, identifying, and labeling chromosomes in human karyotype assays. Nowadays, the BSL-3 work is about getting some nasty bugs to grow for identification. I think cell biology is awesome, and the phenomenon of cell division is especially interesting to me. From karyotyping to Gram stains to bone marrow differentials to culturing *Clostridia*, I've looked at a lot of proliferating cells, over the years.

The Allen Institute for Cell Science was founded in 2014 and takes a novel, holistic approach to understand the human cell and help accelerate cell biology and biomedical research. The **Allen Cell Explorer website** at allencell.org is a portal to some fantastic information. Take a minute and have a look.

This link takes you to their 3D viewer of mitosis:

<https://imsc.allencell.org>

I hope you find this worth sharing with your people. May need to copy to your browser.

Here's the TV show you should watch. THE HOT ZONE is a dramatization of the 1994 nonfiction work of Richard Preston (which expands a *New Yorker* article he wrote in '92). The book's the place to start, of course, but the visual adaptation by *National Geographic* brings the story to the viewer in a visceral way. It's out now in a 6-part miniseries, on the *National Geographic* channel.

The story follows *Ebola reston*, the true events of an Ebola infected group of research monkeys imported to a research facility in 1989. It also follows the brief history of the virus' discovery. I won't drop any spoilers, but the series depicts many aspects of outbreak and pandemic response that I attempt to discuss in these posts. Aside from the drama added for color (and there's a bunch – and no Emmy's are going to be awarded), the science stuff is worthwhile. The epidemiology, use of medical technology, preparedness lessons, threat response, and biosafety details make this an enthralling ride for anyone in our field. Here's the trailer:





[click to watch]

Okay, that's it.

Have a great week and be safe,

Bryan

