This issue of the Technical Digest features articles on public health informatics and disease surveillance advances being performed at APL. Shown on the back cover are historical images of memorable public health events. The upper image is surveillance for the disease trachoma being carried out by public health inspectors on immigrants entering the United States via Ellis Island. For centuries, this form of surveillance was used to limit the entry of persons thought to be diseased. The lower image shows a temporary hospital at Camp Funston, Kansas, during the Spanish influenza outbreak of 1918. The 1918 strain was a highly virulent form of avian influenza that was believed to have infected one-third of the world’s population. A new strain of avian influenza currently is causing high mortality in bird populations. This strain has the potential to cross over into a highly communicable human form of the virus. Human interaction with diseased bird populations, as shown on the front cover, could be the mechanism by which the new strain is formed. Surveillance and rapid identification of deadly strains have become priorities for public health professionals.