Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events

2015 Annual Report

The National Academies of
SCiences · Engineering · Medicine
Message from the Co-Chairs
Dan Hanfling and Suzet McKinney

We are honored to share leadership of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events—a neutral convening venue for leaders of government, professional, and private-sector organizations dedicated to developing and enhancing the nation’s health care and public health preparedness. Since its inception in 2007, the forum has fostered dialogue among diverse stakeholders and provided the opportunity to confront many of the challenges inherent in ensuring our nation’s health security. The active participation of forum members and other interested stakeholders continues to make the forum relevant to the dynamic enterprise that keeps Americans healthy and saves lives during disasters by building healthy, resilient, and sustainable communities.

We are committed to strengthening our capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and public health emergencies by serving as a catalyst for public–private partnerships; helping to define the scope of the field and setting the stage for future policy action; bringing ongoing attention and visibility to important preparedness issues; exploring new approaches for resolving problem areas; and elevating the understanding and visibility of medical and public health preparedness in the broader research, public policy, and other relevant communities.

The forum is self-governing. Its membership identifies the topics it wishes to address and develops the agenda for the forum’s regular meetings and special workshops. As a result, topics span a broad range of issues in research, policy, and practice. The forum has thus far focused on the following broad topic areas: medical surge capacity, disaster preparedness education and training, medical countermeasures, psychological and community resilience, and disaster research.

In 2015, the forum conducted three meetings of the membership and convened workshops related to rapid medical countermeasure response to infectious diseases and the domestic health care and public health implications of international infectious disease emergencies. The forum also engaged in a strategic planning process that assessed and prioritized future topics, workshops, and activities of the forum.
The forum’s membership identified several topics for discussion in 2016, including the following:

- Strengthening the U.S. health care and public health system’s capacity to detect, prevent, plan for, respond to, and recover from naturally occurring infectious disease outbreaks and intentional or accidental releases of dangerous pathogens.

- Enhancing resilience of individuals and communities through disaster risk reduction, including a “health in all policies” approach in post-disaster recovery planning efforts, engaging and collaborating with nontraditional sectors, and exploring special considerations needed to strengthen a community after a mass casualty incident.

- Improving situational awareness, threat intelligence sharing, risk communication, and collaboration among multisector disaster response networks during large-scale health care and public health emergencies.

- Understanding the risks to the health care and public health sectors associated with the vulnerabilities of other interdependent sectors; the consequences of cascading and prolonged failures of infrastructure; the threats from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives; and the increasing threat and consequences of cyberattacks.

As co-chairs, we bring diverse professional experiences in both government and the private sector—a collaborative partnership we hope to see reflected in the work of the forum. We look forward to working with you and our other colleagues to ensure that the forum continues its tradition of education, active contribution, and consensus building toward greater medical and public health preparedness.

Dan Hanfling  
Co-Chair

Suzet McKinney  
Co-Chair
Reflecting Back
Forum Activities in 2015

Forum Meetings
The forum’s focus in 2015 addressed the following topics: older adults as a vulnerable population following disasters and public health emergencies; expected outcomes from the Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense; Koshland Museum collaborations; partnership opportunities between pharmacies and the health care and public health sectors for disaster planning, response, and recovery; individual and population risk assessment and its impact on decision making during disasters and public health emergencies; and strategic planning for the forum’s future direction. In addition, the forum convened the activities and workshops described below.

Rapid Medical Countermeasure Response to Infectious Diseases: Enabling Sustainable Capabilities Through Ongoing Public- and Private-Sector Partnerships (March 2015)
The forum organized a public workshop that examined how to better enable rapid and nimble private-sector engagement in the discovery, development, and translation of medical countermeasures. The workshop explored what policies, guidance, and resources exist to inform decision making within the government and how federal policies and
guidance (formal and informal) documents impact the business and operational models employed by the private sector. The workshop further explored what is needed to ensure that the private sector can respond in a rapid, nimble manner to ensure the availability of medical countermeasures and augment national health security. The workshop summary was released in September 2015, with the print version released in February 2016. The workshop summary can be found at http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21809/rapid-medical-countermeasure-response-to-infectious-diseases-enabling-sustainable-capabilities.

**International Infectious Disease Emergencies and Domestic Implications for the Public Health and Health Care Sectors (April 2015)**

At the 2015 Preparedness Summit, the forum convened a panel of individuals with expertise in local, state, and international disaster response to explore and discuss the domestic implications of a disaster or other public health emergencies originating outside the United States. Because multiple federal agencies are often involved in mobilizing to protect the nation’s health security, the workshop explored the command-and-control structures across sectors and at all levels. In addition, coordination across all surveillance systems throughout
the U.S. health and public health system was highlighted to ensure full situational awareness and readiness to respond when emerging infectious diseases cross our borders. The workshop featured federal, local, and international health experts who discussed the World Health Organization’s 2005 “International Health Regulations” and the Global Health Security Agenda launched in 2014. Speakers discussed their experiences with incidents of the Ebola virus disease in the United States and as it was unfolding in West Africa. They also discussed resulting challenges and ways to respond effectively to future public health emergencies of international concern. A workshop in brief was released in July 2015 and can be found at http://nationalacademies.org/HMD/Reports/2015/International-Infectious-Disease-Emergencies-and-Domestic-Implications-for-the-Public-Health-and-Health-Care-Sectors.aspx.

**Strategic Planning Session (October 2015)**
The forum participated in a strategic planning process that assessed current and previous meeting topics, workshops, and priorities of the forum. Members participated in a 1-day, facilitated discussion that was led by an external consultant. During the discussion, members were divided into groups to discuss the forum’s strengths and weaknesses and the critical issues that will need to be addressed in the next 3 to 5 years. Members also deliberated on potential key priorities of focus for the forum and developed a strategic map that identified the next steps needed to address the forum’s relationship and role within the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; membership engagement; and dissemination of products. Results from the session, along with results from postsession surveys on topic areas that focused on community resilience, global health security, critical infrastructure, and communication and coordination, will be used to determine the forum’s future.
Looking Forward
Forum Activities in 2016

Forum Meetings
In 2016, the forum will host meetings of its membership in February, June, and October and will organize two public workshops in April and September to continue its focus on health care and public health preparedness challenges.

Top areas of focus for the coming year are described below.

Areas of Focus

Global Health Security
Global Health Security focuses on ongoing efforts to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from emerging infectious diseases and other threats. The forum will concentrate its discussion on strengthening the U.S. health care and public health system’s capacity to detect, prevent, plan for, respond to, and recover from naturally occurring outbreaks and intentional or accidental releases of dangerous pathogens.

Community Resilience
Community Resilience explores issues related to the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations following a catastrophic event. The forum will focus its discussion on ways to enhance
the resilience of individuals and communities through disaster risk reduction, inclusion of
health in post-disaster recovery planning efforts, work with nontraditional sectors, and special
considerations needed to strengthen a community after a mass casualty incident.

**Communication and Coordination**
Communication and Coordination focuses on ensuring timely communications and effective
coordination within all levels of government and among government, the private sector, and
the public during large-scale disasters and incidents. The forum will center its discussion on
ways to improve situational awareness, threat intelligence sharing, risk communication, and col-
laboration among multisector disaster response networks, including public, academic, private,
governmental, and nongovernmental entities.

**Critical Infrastructure Protection**
Critical Infrastructure Protection focuses on ongoing efforts to secure the assets, systems, and
networks, whether physical or virtual, vital to the security, public health, and safety of the
nation. The forum centers its discussion on the health care and public health sector and inter-
dependent sector vulnerabilities; consequences of cascading and prolonged failures of infra-
structure; threats from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives; and
the increasing threat and consequences of cyberattacks.

**Continuation of the Forum’s Strategic Planning Process**
The forum will continue working toward approaches identified in the strategic planning session
held on October 2, 2015, which include identifying and prioritizing key issues; achieving mean-
ningful member engagement; defining and leveraging outputs for workshops and meetings; and
optimizing structures, systems, and processes within the forum.

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<th>Feb 23</th>
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<td>Public Engagement for Distribution and Dispensing of Antiviral Medications: A Workshop in Los Angeles, CA</td>
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Reports and Other 2015 Publications

Released February 25, 2015:

Regional Disaster Response Coordination to Support Health Outcomes: Surge Management: Workshop in Brief

Released April 15, 2015:

Regional Disaster Response Coordination to Support Health Outcomes: Summary of a Workshop Series

Released July 7, 2015:

International Infectious Disease Emergencies and Domestic Implications for the Public Health and Health Care Sectors: Workshop in Brief

Released October 12, 2015:

Rapid Medical Countermeasure Response to Infectious Diseases: Enabling Sustainable Capabilities Through Ongoing Public- and Private-Sector Partnerships: Workshop Summary

Mar 14
Decision Support and Modeling Resources for States and Local Health Departments: Workshop at the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA

Jun 10-11
Preparedness Considerations for Children and Families: Workshop

Oct 29-30
18th Meeting

Mar 26
Regional Disaster Response Coordination to Support Health Outcomes: A Workshop Series: Community Planning and Engagement hosted in Irvine, CA

Mar 14
Engaging the Public in Critical Disaster Planning and Decision Making: Workshop at the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA

Nov 18-19
The Impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on U.S. Preparedness Resources and Programs: Workshop
2015 Forum Members

Dan Hanfling (Co-Chair)
UPMC Center for Biosecurity, Bethesda, MD

Lynne R. Kidder (Co-Chair) (until July 2015)
Consultant, Boulder, CO

Suzet M. McKinney (Co-Chair) (since July 2015)
Illinois Medical District Commission, Chicago, IL

Alex J. Adams
National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Alexandria, VA (until September 2015)

Elquemedo Oscar Alleyne
National Association of County and City Health Officials, Washington, DC (since October 2015)

Roy L. Alson
American College of Emergency Physicians, Winston-Salem, NC

Pamela Blackwell
National Association of County and City Health Officials, Washington, DC (since December 2015)

Kathryn Brinsfield

Susan Cooper
Regional Medical Center, Memphis, TN

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Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Washington, DC

Bruce Evans
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, Upper Pine River Fire Protection District, Bayfield, CO

Julie L. Gerberding
Merck Vaccines, Merck & Co., Inc., West Point, PA

Lewis R. Goldfrank
New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY

John L. Hick
Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN

James J. James
Society for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, Bethesda, MD (until June 2015)

Paul E. Jarris
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Arlington, VA (until October 2015)

Lisa G. Kaplowitz
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC (until October 2015)

Michael G. Kurilla
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Washington, DC

Emily Lord
Healthcare Ready (formerly Rx Response), Washington, DC (since September 2015)

Nicole Lurie
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC (since September 2015)

Jayne Lux
National Business Group on Health, Washington, DC

Linda M. Macintyre
American Red Cross, Washington, DC

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Seqirus (formerly Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics), West Point, PA

Nicole McKoin
Target Corporation, Frungle, PA

Aubrey K. Miller
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD

Matthew Minson
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Erin Mullen
Healthcare Ready (formerly Rx Response), Washington, DC (until September 2015)

John Osborn
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Tara O’Toole
In-Q-Tel, Arlington, VA

Andrew T. Pavia
Infectious Disease Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT

Steven J. Phillips
National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD

Alonzo Plough
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ

Lewis J. Radonovich
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC

Stephen Redd
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

Mary J. Riley
Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC

Andrew Roszak
National Association of County and City Health Officials, Washington, DC (until September 2015)

Sara (Rubin) Roszak
National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Arlington, VA (since September 2015)

Kenneth W. Schor
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD (until December 2015)

Roslyn Schulman
American Hospital Association, Washington, DC

Richard Serino
Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA

David J. Smith
U.S. Department of Defense, Falls Church, VA

Margaret Vanamringe
The Joint Commission, Washington, DC

W. Craig Vanderwagen
East West Protection, Potomac, MD (formerly Martin, Blanck & Associates), Alexandria, VA

Jennifer Ward
Trauma Center Association of America, Las Cruces, NM

John M. Wiesman
Washington State Department of Health, Tumwater, WA (representative for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials since December 2015)

Gamunu Wijetunge
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC

Matthew Wynia
University of Colorado, Aurora, CO

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Apr 2
Crisis Standards of Care: Lessons from Communities Developing Their Plans: Workshop at the 2014 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA

Apr 1
National Preparedness Impacts of the Affordable Care Act: Workshop at the 2014 Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA

Apr 19th Meeting

Jun 12-13
Enabling Public Health Research During Disasters: A Joint Workshop with Dept. of Health and Human Services

Jul 26
Regional Disaster Response Coordination to Support Health Outcomes: A Workshop Series: Information Sharing and Incident Management hosted in Minneapolis, MN

Nov 3
Research Priorities to Inform Public Health and Medical Practice for Domestic Ebola Virus Disease: Workshop
Forum Sponsorship

Financial support for the forum is derived from federal agencies, patient advocacy organizations, industry, and a nonprofit membership society.

Administration for Children and Families (HHS)
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Hospital Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS)
East West Protection (formerly Martin, Blanck & Associates)
Emergency Nurses Association
Food and Drug Administration (HHS)
Healthcare Ready (formerly Rx Response)
Infectious Disease Society of America
Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (DOT)
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH)
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH)
National Library of Medicine (NIH)
Office of Health Affairs (DHS)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (HHS)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (DoD)
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Seqirus (formerly Novartis Vaccine and Diagnostics)
Target Corporation
Trauma Center Association of America
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (DoD)
About the Preparedness Forum
The Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events was established in 2007 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s Board on Health Sciences Policy. The Preparedness Forum holds regular meetings every 3 to 4 months to foster dialogue among stakeholders and provide ongoing opportunities to discuss and confront issues of mutual interest and concern to the emergency medical and public health communities. The Preparedness Forum provides a catalyst for voluntary public–private collaboration on topics where there is synergy among potential partners; helps define the scope of the field and thus sets the stage for future policy action; brings ongoing attention and visibility to important preparedness issues; explores new approaches for resolving problem areas; and elevates the general understanding and visibility of medical and public health preparedness in the broader research, public policy, and other appropriate communities. Additional information about the Preparedness Forum is available online at www.nas.edu/medprepforum.

Forum Staff
Bruce Altevogt  
*Project Director (until May 2015)*

John (Jack) Herrmann  
*Project Director (since May 2015)*

Megan Reeve Snair  
*Program Officer (until November 2015)*

Justin Snair  
*Program Officer (since November 2015)*

Ashley Ottewell  
*Research Associate*

Alex Repace  
*Senior Program Assistant*

Board on Health Sciences Policy
Andrew M. Pope  
*Director*