

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Forum on Medical  
and Public Health  
Preparedness for  
Catastrophic Events**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**D**uring its second year, the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events continued to enhance collaboration among a diverse group of public- and private-sector participants and facilitate thoughtful, provocative, and open discussion of some of the most challenging and complex issues facing the medical and public health preparedness community. The Forum, through its regular meetings and workshops, provides a unique venue for representatives and leaders from local, state, and federal governments; leaders of professional and business associations; and other stakeholders and key decision makers to address obstacles to the nation's medical and public health preparedness and to explore strategies and solutions that require engagement across sectors, agencies, and organizations.



Lewis Goldfrank

In 2009, the Forum began to address numerous topics—at the strategic level as well as technical aspects of the public health preparedness system—where substantial progress must be made if we are to accomplish a comprehensive and unified approach to preparedness. Forum initiatives included regular meetings; workshops on medical surge capacity, the National Health Security Strategy, and medical countermeasures dispensing; and a series of regional meetings on crisis standards of care. Members of the Forum also collaborated in stakeholder working groups to examine a broad range of key issues.

In 2010, the Forum will host a range of activities, including a series of regional meetings on the H1N1 vaccination campaigns, a workshop on the public health countermeasures enterprise, and a workshop on rural mass casualty response. Forum meetings will also continue to address the following long-term priorities, as set by the membership:

- Enabling a Culture Shift: Individual, Family, and Community Preparedness and Resiliency
- Developing a Framework of Medical and Health Emergency Management
- Developing a Research Agenda to Improve the Evidence Base for Preparedness and Response
- Examining Information Technology for Public Health Emergencies and Disaster Medical Response

Our commitment to working together will allow us to address and solve problems often perceived as politically and intellectually complex. We look forward to another year of creative and enthusiastic discussion, engagement, and collaboration on issues that remain critical to the nation's health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lewis Goldfrank".

Lewis Goldfrank  
Chair

# ◀ REFLECTING BACK FORUM ACTIVITIES IN 2009

## **Forum Meetings**

The Forum met three times in 2009. Topics of discussion included Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and the 2008 California fires; workforce capacity; medical countermeasures dispensing; medical surge capacity; sustainable models for financing preparedness; a National Library of Medicine (NLM) central portal for all critical literature on preparedness and response; creating a framework for public health preparedness; and integrating preparedness into the health system.

## **Regional Meetings on Crisis Standards of Care (March-May 2009)**

In spring 2009, in the midst of the initial phase of the H1N1 pandemic outbreak, the Forum hosted a series of regional meetings on crisis standards of care. The meetings highlighted the current local, state, and regional efforts under way to establish crisis standards of care policies and aimed to improve regional efforts by facilitating dialogue and coordination among neighboring jurisdictions. Participants also identified important areas for future work, many of which were addressed in a subsequent IOM committee report, *Guidance for Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations*. A summary of the meetings is available on the Forum's website, [www.iom.edu/preparednessforum](http://www.iom.edu/preparednessforum).

## **Medical Surge Capacity: A Workshop (June 2009)**

The Forum convened a 2-day workshop in June 2009 to explore strategies to improve medical surge capacity, with an emphasis on expanding preparedness efforts beyond hospitals to include the entire health system. The workshop discussions helped inform the efforts of the Hospital Preparedness Program. A summary of the workshop is available on the Forum's website.

## **Assessing the Severity of Influenza-Like Illnesses: Clinical Algorithms to Inform and Empower Healthcare Professionals and the Public (September 2009)**

Faced with the looming prospect of an overwhelming H1N1 pandemic, in early September 2009 the Forum hosted a meeting on clinical algorithms that could be used by members of the public and practitioners. Based upon meeting discussions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others posted a revised adult self-assessment algorithm for H1N1 on their websites.

## **Preparedness Response Capabilities in the National Health Security Strategy: A Workshop (October 2009)**

In October 2009, the Forum hosted a workshop to provide stakeholder input and review of the National Health Security Strategy (NHSS), a congressionally mandated quadrennial strategy for public health emergency preparedness and response that was due to Congress in December 2009. The workshop brought together a wide range of participants, including those representing community groups, organizations, and populations not traditionally included in preparedness efforts. Participants proposed and discussed innovative strategies for implementing the priorities identified by the NHSS.

## **Workshop on Emergency Use Authorization (November 2009)**

Building on the Forum's previous workshop on medical countermeasures, in November 2009 the Forum hosted a workshop on Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Speakers and participants discussed the policy implications of EUAs and strategies to limit associated logistical challenges that could delay the delivery and dispensing of medical countermeasures.

# LOOKING AHEAD FORUM INITIATIVES FOR 2010



## **Forum Meetings**

The Forum members will meet in January, June, and October 2010 to continue to address timely issues that present significant opportunities to advance the nation's preparedness. The meeting in January will focus on private- and public-sector integration. Discussions will highlight the private sector's response to H1N1 and explore strategies to continue to enhance public-private collaboration and engage the private sector in a wide range of preparedness efforts. Forum members will use subsequent meetings to begin to develop a research agenda and a framework for the preparedness field. The goals of the membership are (1) to identify and discuss specific research areas and current gaps in the evidence base, which, if addressed, would make a substantial difference to the effectiveness and efficiency of preparedness and response efforts and (2) to discuss the common objectives of public health preparedness and the key elements and principles that are needed to achieve these objectives.

## **Workshop on the Public Health Countermeasures Research and Development Enterprise: Innovative Strategies to Enhance Products from Development through Approval (February 2010)**

In response to a request from the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Forum will convene a 2-day workshop to examine federal policies and activities that relate to the discovery, development, production, and approval of medical countermeasures for public health emergencies, and explore potential opportunities to enhance the countermeasures enterprise by evaluating other models or systems that have similar goals of developing medical products with low commercial viability. Speakers and participants will discuss the following topics, among others: (1) strategies to optimize the federal public health emergency medical countermeasures enterprise; (2) strategies to further enhance the translation of early phase investments in basic science into potential public health interventions; (3) models for enhancing partnerships between federal programs, innovators, and the commercial marketplace; and (4) market forces that act on the advanced development biodefense community.

## **Regional Meetings on H1N1 Vaccination Campaigns (April and May 2010)**

The Forum will host a series of regional meetings in Raleigh, NC, Austin, TX, and Seattle, WA that will examine lessons learned from current H1N1 vaccination campaigns, with a particular focus on integrated communication, distribution, and dispensing strategies. The meetings will highlight successful approaches used by jurisdictions, in collaboration with traditional and nontraditional partners, to communicate with the public and providers and distribute and dispense vaccine. Speakers and participants will also examine creative approaches used to improve delivery and dispensing of vaccine, discuss challenges that arose during vaccination campaigns, and examine how these lessons can help improve future medical countermeasure dispensing campaigns.

## **Rural Mass Casualty Response Workshop (August 2010)**

The Forum will host a workshop that will evaluate the system of emergency care response to large-scale transportation-related rural crashes and the role of the states in improving emergency medical services (EMS) response to such incidents. The workshop discussions will provide an opportunity to examine the current capabilities and future opportunities to improve mass casualty response in rural settings.



David Marcozzi, The White House; Jayne Lux, National Business Group on Health; Deborah Levy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## WORKING GROUPS

The Forum also convenes several working groups that participate in regular teleconferences to discuss in greater detail issues related to a particular topic, as well as to advise on and organize upcoming events and activities.

### **Medical Countermeasures Working Group**

The Medical Countermeasures Working Group focuses on ongoing efforts to identify ways to improve the dispensing of medical countermeasures. Some of the themes relevant to this group include prepositioning of medical countermeasures, points of dispensing (PODs), education, communication, and liability, among others.

### **Mass Casualty Care Working Group**

The Mass Casualty Care Working Group was established to explore issues related to mass casualty care. Specific relevant topics include crisis standards of care, ethical allocation of resources during an event, state and local considerations, establishing regional health networks, legal and regulatory issues, and palliative care, among others.

### **Framework Working Group**

The Framework Working Group was established to continue the dialog around creating a framework/doctrine for public health preparedness. This group aims to begin to identify shared objectives and the key elements and principles that would be needed to achieve these objectives.

### **Health IT Working Group**

The Health IT Working Group provides a venue for identifying opportunities for the use of information technology during a public health emergency, as well as discussing the interoperability requirements necessary to prepare, respond, and recover from a catastrophic event.



Sally Phillips, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



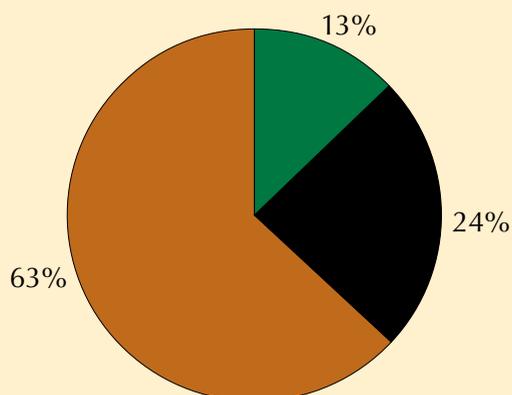
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### Forum Funding: 2009

■ Industry ■ Nonprofit ■ Federal



# FORUM MEMBERS

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## About the Preparedness Forum

The Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Catastrophic Events was established in 2007 by the Institute of Medicine's Board on Health Sciences Policy. The 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. The Forum provides a neutral venue for broad-ranging policy discussions that serve to facilitate coordination and cooperation among the public- and private-sector stakeholders in developing and enhancing the nation's medical and public health preparedness. More specifically, the 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 Forum is available online at: [www.iom.edu/preparednessforum](http://www.iom.edu/preparednessforum).

## About the Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine serves as adviser to the nation to improve health. Established in 1970 under the charter of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine provides independent, objective, evidence-based advice to policy makers, health professionals, the private sector, and the public. The mission of the IOM embraces the health of people everywhere.

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**THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES**  
*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*