Message from the Co-Chairs
Bob Kadlec and Lynne Kidder

We are honored to share leadership of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM’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 medical and public health preparedness. Since its inception in 2007, the Preparedness Forum has fostered dialogue among diverse stakeholders and provided the opportunity to confront many of the challenges inherent in assuring our nation’s health security. Building on the solid foundation provided by its first chair, Dr. Lewis Goldfrank, we are committed to strengthening the roles and impact of the Forum: serving as a catalyst for voluntary public-private collaboration among potential partners; 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 that it wishes to address and, with assistance from staff, 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 in the following broad topic areas: medical surge capacity, disaster preparedness education and training, medical countermeasures, psychological and community resilience, and infrastructure for research and evaluation.

In 2010, the Forum conducted three workshops that included: exploring the successes and constraints in private-public collaboration in response to 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccine campaigns, building public-private partnerships for public health emergencies that can help support the
Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE), and examining medical and public health preparedness and response issues as they apply to rural and frontier settings.

The Forum’s membership has already identified a number of activities for 2011, including:

- Consideration of key elements and priorities for the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA);
- A workshop that will build on the Forum’s previous work on crisis standards of care, with a focus on engaging the international disaster response community; and
- In collaboration with IOM’s Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation, a workshop focused on advancing regulatory science for medical countermeasures development.

As co-chairs, we bring a combination of 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 our colleagues to ensure the Preparedness Forum builds on its tradition of education and consensus building toward greater medical and public health preparedness.

Bob Kadlec  Lynne Kidder  
Co-Chair  Co-Chair
Reflecting Back
Forum Activities in 2010

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum met three times in 2010. Among the topics explored: the successes and constraints in public-private collaboration in the response to 2009 H1N1 pandemic campaigns and opportunities to maintain public-private partnerships during preparedness activities, key principles and goals to be considered during PAHPA reauthorization, designing a “framework” for medical and public health preparedness and emergency management, and identifying an integrated multidisciplinary research agenda for health and public health preparedness and response. In addition, the Forum convened public workshops described in more detail below.

The Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise—Workshop (February 2010)
During public health emergencies, effective vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other medical countermeasures are essential to protecting national security and saving lives. The PHEMCE—a partnership among federal, state, and local governments; industry; and academia—is at the forefront of the effort to develop these countermeasures. At the request of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the IOM’s Preparedness Forum and the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation collaborated to host a workshop in February 2010 to address the challenges facing the PHEMCE. Workshop participants discussed federal policies and procedures affecting the research, development, and approval of medical countermeasures and explored opportunities to improve the process and protect Americans’ safety and health. Report available for download.
The 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Campaign—A Workshop Series (April–May 2010)

The 2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign was one of the largest public health campaigns in U.S. history, vaccinating one-quarter of the population in the first three months. In April and May 2010, the Preparedness Forum held a series of three workshops in Raleigh, NC; Austin, TX; and Seattle, WA, designed to learn from participants’ experiences during the campaign and improve future emergency vaccination programs. Public health officials, health care providers, pharmacy representatives, health insurance providers, members of community organizations, and others gathered to review, evaluate, and learn from one another. Report available for download.

Rural Mass Casualty Preparedness and Response—A Workshop (August 2010)

The Forum convened a workshop August 2010 to examine preparedness and response issues specific to rural settings. The workshop provided a review of report findings from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) of the 2008 Mexican Hat incident and participants shared near- and long-term opportunities to improve response capabilities in rural settings. Participants also discussed ways to improve the integration and coordination with public health systems to address challenges to national public health security, particularly in rural settings. Report available for download.
Looking Forward
Forum Activities in 2011

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum will meet in March, June, and October 2011 to continue their work on preparedness and response to public health emergencies. In addition, the Forum is organizing the public meetings described below.

Panel Session for the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit
(Atlanta, Georgia—February 2011)
In collaboration with a program committee, the Preparedness Forum will organize a plenary session at the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit. This session will build on the Forum’s previous analysis of PAHPA. Many of PAHPA’s provisions had an immediate and direct impact in the federal, state, and local response to the H1N1 pandemic, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and the Gulf oil spill. PAHPA has strengthened medical and public health preparedness and response, but many challenges remain. The upcoming reauthorization of PAHPA provides an opportunity to prescribe additional changes to strengthen medical and public health preparedness and response. This session will provide attendees an opportunity to engage experts and officials from the White House; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, HHS; the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CDC; the Office of Health Affairs, DHS; and other experts about key elements of PAHPA reauthorization and to provide input and feedback on reauthorization priorities.
Advancing Regulatory Science for Medical Countermeasure Development—
An Institute of Medicine Workshop (Washington, DC—March 2011)
The IOM’s Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation and the Preparedness Forum will collaborate and organize a workshop that focuses on advancing regulatory science for medical countermeasures development. The workshop will consider existing or proposed methodologies that can simplify and accelerate both the development and regulatory evaluation of medical countermeasures.

Panel Session for the 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine (Beijing, China—May 2011)
At the invitation of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, the Preparedness Forum will conduct a panel for the 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. The session will build on the Forum’s previous work on crisis standards of care and focus on engaging the larger international disaster response community. The Preparedness Forum will publish an abbreviated summary of this session.

Medical and Health Emergency Management Framework—A Workshop (Summer 2011)
Currently the medical and public health fields are hampered in preparing and responding to catastrophic health events due to the absence of an overarching framework and a set of commonly agreed upon objectives. The Preparedness Forum will conduct a workshop that focuses on developing a medical and health emergency management framework. Using a white paper as a starting point for discussion, workshop participants will dialogue around creating a framework/doctrine for public health preparedness. The Forum will publish a summary of this workshop.
Working Groups

Working groups are established and maintained by interested members and are open to all members. The Forum’s working groups engage in regular discussions, usually via teleconferences, on topics of interest to that group. Workshop topics often originate from working groups and are organized by an independently appointed workshop planning committee.

**Medical Countermeasures Working Group**
The Medical Countermeasures Working Group focuses on ongoing efforts to identify ways to improve the research, development, distribution, and dispensing of medical countermeasures. Some of the themes relevant to this group include regulatory paradigm for product licensure, public-private partnerships, dispensing strategies, education, communication, and liability.

**Mass Casualty Care Working Group**
The Mass Casualty Care Working Group was established to explore issues related to mass casualty care. Specific topics include crisis standards of care, ethical allocation of scare resources during an event, state and local jurisdictional considerations, establishing regional coalitions, provider liability, credentialing, and palliative care.

**Framework Working Group**
The Framework Working Group was established to continue the dialog around creating a framework/doctrine for medical and health emergency management. This group will lay the groundwork for a workshop that will explore common objectives and the key elements and principles that would be needed to achieve a unified emergency response system.
**Community Resilience Working Group**

The Community Resilience Working Group was established to explore issues related to community resilience impacted by a catastrophic event. The group focuses on ways to enhance resilience for individuals and communities and explores special considerations needed to strengthen a community from a mass causality incident.

**PAHPA Working Group**

The PAHPA Working Group was established to explore goals and priorities for reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. Many of the outcomes from the original legislation have strengthened the medical and public health community, and the nation’s resilience at large; however, many challenges remain. It is the hope through this working group to explore priorities as they relate to future requests for reauthorization of PAHPA legislation in the U.S. Congress.
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Forum Sponsorship

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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 to the emergency medical and public health communities. 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.

About the Institute of Medicine
The Institute of Medicine was established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences to secure the services of eminent members of appropriate professions in the examination of policy matters pertaining to the health of the public. The Institute acts under the responsibility assigned to the National Academy of Sciences by its congressional charter to serve as an adviser to the federal government and, upon its own initiative, to identify issues needing attention in the areas of medical care, research, and education.

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