Message from the Co-Chairs

Bob Kadlec and Lynne Kidder

We are honored to share leadership of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) 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.

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 general understanding and visibility of medical and public health preparedness in the broader research, public policy, and other appropriate communities.

The Forum is self-governing. Its membership identifies the topics that 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. They include medical surge capacity, disaster preparedness education and training, medical countermeasures, enhancing public–private collaboration, psychological and community resilience, and infrastructure for research and evaluation.

In 2011, the Forum conducted two workshops. The first built on the Forum’s previous work on crisis standards of care, with a focus on engaging the international disaster response community. The second was organized in collaboration with IOM’s Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation, focusing on advancing regulatory science for medical countermeasures development.
The Forum’s membership has already identified a number of activities for 2012, including

- a series of public engagement workshops to explore alternative strategies for distribution and dispensing of antiviral medications to the public during an influenza pandemic;
- a workshop to examine the long-term recovery of the health care service delivery infrastructure following a catastrophic event—sustainability well beyond the initial disaster response, requiring a broad public–private partnership; and
- a workshop about the response capabilities required following detonation of an improvised nuclear device, including the availability and need for medical countermeasures, risk communication, and sheltering and evacuation guidelines.

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 continuing to work 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  
Co-Chair

Lynne Kidder  
Co-Chair
Reflecting Back
Forum Activities in 2011

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum met three times in 2011. Among the topics explored: the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Whole Community Initiative, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) reauthorization legislation, implementation of the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise (PHEMCE) initiative, and the impact of funding cuts on both national security and state and local public health preparedness for a large-scale disaster. The Preparedness Forum also considered the resilience of state and local health systems. The Forum convened additional activities and public workshops described in greater detail below.

PAHPA Reauthorization (February 2011)
At the bipartisan request of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Preparedness Forum co-chairs presented a briefing to Senate staffers on the legislative history and more recent progress since the adoption of PAHPA in 2006. The Preparedness Forum also organized a plenary town hall session on PAHPA reauthorization at the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit. Attendees had the opportunity to engage experts and officials from the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services’s (HHS’s) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about PAHPA and to provide input and feedback about prospective changes to the law. Major themes from the town hall included the need for better coordination among federal agencies (specifically, with respect to grants allocation) and effective integration with state programs; consistent and evidence-based metrics by which to gauge progress toward preparedness goals; and an increased focus on advanced development, manufacturing, and procurement of medical countermeasures, including access to capital, expertise, and clear incentives that encourage industry investment in countermeasure development.
Advancing Regulatory Science for Medical Countermeasure Development: Workshop Summary (March 2011)
The availability of safe and effective medical countermeasures—including vaccines, drugs, and diagnostic tools—could determine life or death for countless Americans during a medical or public health disaster. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plays a crucial role in the nation’s preparedness through its regulation and approval of these medical countermeasures. At the request of the FDA, the IOM Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation collaborated with the Preparedness Forum to host a workshop in March 2011 that examined methods to improve medical countermeasure development, testing, and approval. Experts from federal government agencies, industry, and academia discussed opportunities to apply cutting-edge science to the product review process. The workshop summary is available for download at www.iom.edu.

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 organized a panel for the 17th World Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. The session expanded on the Preparedness Forum’s previous work on crisis standards of care and focused on the opportunities and challenges of integrating crisis standards of care principles into international disaster response plans. Participants also considered how standards of care would change due to the shortage of critical resources, while ensuring that the best possible care would be provided during a catastrophic event. The report is available for download at www.iom.edu.
Looking Forward
Forum Activities in 2012

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum will meet in April, July, and October 2012 to continue its work to improve the nation’s preparedness and response capabilities. In addition, the Forum is organizing the following public meetings, described below.

Public Engagement for Distribution and Dispensing of Antiviral Medications: Workshop Series (Fort Benton, MT; Chattanooga, TN; and Los Angeles, CA—February–March 2012)
Currently, state and local public health authorities are responsible for the majority of antiviral medication distribution and dispensing activities within their jurisdiction during a disease pandemic. However, several related challenges arose during the recent 2009 H1N1 pandemic that should be considered in future planning. Moreover, the current economic climate and substantial funding cuts mean public health departments are losing staff, and with them, the preparedness and response planning activities required to ensure effective distribution and dispensing mechanisms. The CDC is exploring alternative delivery systems that partner with the private sector to leverage the latter’s expertise in pharmaceutical distribution and dispensing. The prospective public–private dispensing mechanisms would specifically consider the requirements for dispensing antiviral medications during a severe influenza pandemic. At the request of the CDC, the Preparedness Forum will convene a series of public engagement workshops to gauge the public’s perception of the safety, feasibility, and acceptability of alternative strategies for distribution and dispensing of medications to the public during a pandemic.

Long-Term Recovery of the Health Care Service Delivery Infrastructure—Panel Session for the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit (Anaheim, CA—February 2012)
At the invitation of conference organizers, the Preparedness Forum will organize a panel for the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit to address long-term recovery
of the health care service delivery infrastructure following a disaster—sustainability well beyond the initial disaster response, requiring a broad public–private partnership. This session will provide participants an opportunity to engage representatives from federal, state, and local governments and the nonprofit and private sectors to identify the services necessary to maintain or improve the affected health care service delivery infrastructure that meets the long-term physical and behavioral health needs of affected populations. The discussions will highlight lessons from previous disasters and focus on opportunities to leverage resources and best practices across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors that support long-term recovery and mass casualty care.

**Addressing Medical and Public Health Planning and Challenges in the Event and Aftermath of a Radiation and Nuclear Incident: A Workshop (TBD, 2012)**

The Preparedness Forum is planning a workshop to address medical and public health planning and response to a radiation and nuclear incident, with a focus on a “dirty bomb” scenario. The workshop will look at the current availability and need for medical countermeasures, risk communication, sheltering and evacuation guidelines, and other unique aspects of responding to an improvised nuclear device incident. The workshop will consider the challenges of quickly assessing radiation exposure and triage for a very large population and providing the care needed using the existing health care systems and national protocols, as well as coordinating the transport of so many people, and how this relates to crisis standards of care and the allocation of scarce resources.

**Addressing Challenges Associated with Providing Pre-Hospital Care During a Disaster Response Regarding Interstate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Credentialing: A Workshop (TBD, 2012)**

Currently, the medical and public health fields are hampered in preparing and responding to catastrophic health events due to the absence of overarching interstate EMS credentialing. The Preparedness Forum will conduct a workshop that focuses on exploring the challenges associated with providing pre-hospital care during disaster response and discuss the impact of disparate state credentialing on mass casualty incidents preparedness and response. The Preparedness Forum will also examine strategies to improve the current policies and consider potential roles the Forum could play, if any, in moving these issues forward.
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 teleconference, 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 was created 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 focuses on issues related specifically to mass casualty care. Topics include crisis standards of care, the ethical allocation of scarce resources during a disaster, state and local jurisdictional considerations, establishing regional coalitions, provider liability, credentialing, and palliative care.

**Framework Working Group**
The Framework Working Group continues the dialogue around creating a framework/doctrine for medical and health emergency management. This group will lay the groundwork for a workshop that will identify common objectives and the key principles needed to achieve a unified emergency response system.

**Community Resilience Working Group**
The Community Resilience Working Group explores the various factors that strengthen community resilience to a catastrophic event. The group focuses on both individual and community preparedness for medical and public health disasters, as well as the special considerations required to optimize community resilience following a mass casualty incident.
Reports Released in 2011

Preparedness and Response to a Rural Mass Casualty Incident: Workshop Summary
Released: February 22, 2011

Advancing Regulatory Science for Medical Countermeasure Development: Workshop Summary
Released: June 15, 2011

Collaboration with the Forum on Drug Discovery, Development, and Translation
Forum Members
(as of December 2011)

Robert P. Kadlec (Co-Chair)
RPK Consulting LLC, Alexandria, VA

Lynne R. Kidder (Co-Chair)
The Bipartisan WMD Terrorism
Research Center, Washington, DC

Alex J. Adams
National Association of Chain Drug
Stores, Alexandria, VA

Georges C. Benjamin
American Public Health Association,
Washington, DC

Capt D.W. Chen
Office of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Health Affairs,
Department of Defense,
Washington, DC

Victoria J. Davey
Department of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC

Jeffrey S. Duchin
Seattle & King County and University
of Washington, Seattle, WA

Alexander G. Garza
Office of Health Affairs,
Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC

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

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

Dan Hanfling
INOVA Health System,
Falls Church, VA

Jack Herrmann
National Association of County
and City Health Officials,
Washington, DC

James J. James
American Medical Association,
Chicago, IL

Paul E. Jarris
Association of State and Territorial
Health Officials, Arlington, VA

Jerry Johnston
National Association of Emergency
Medical Technicians,
San Leandro, CA

Brian Kamoie
The White House, Washington, DC

Lisa G. Kaplowitz
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Preparedness and Response,
Department of Health and Human
Services, Washington, DC

Ali S. Khan
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, Atlanta, GA

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

Jayne Lux
National Business Group on Health,
Washington, DC

Anthony G. Macintyre
American College of Emergency
Physicians, Washington, DC

Margaret M. McMahon
Emergency Nurses Association,
Williamstown, NJ

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

Erin Mullen
Pharmaceutical Research and
Manufacturers of America,
Washington, DC

Cheryl A. Peterson
American Nurses Association,
Silver Spring, MD

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

Joshua Riff
Target Corporation,
Minneapolis, MN

Roslyne Schulman
American Hospital Association,
Washington, DC

Richard Serino
Federal Emergency Management
Agency, Department of Homeland
Security, Washington, DC

Sharon A.R. Stanley
American Red Cross,
Washington, DC

Eric S. Toner
Center for Biosecurity of the
University of Pittsburgh Medical
Center, Baltimore, MD

Reed V. Tuckson
Unitedhealth Group,
Minneapolis, MN

Margaret Vanamringe
The Joint Commission,
Washington, DC

Gamunu Wijetunge
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration,
Washington, DC
Forum Sponsorship

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

- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American Hospital Association
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
- Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Merck & Co., Inc.
- 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
- National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine
- Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Target Corporation
- The United Health Foundation
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 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.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.

Forum Staff
Bruce Altevogt, Ph.D.  
Project Director
Kristin Viswanathan, M.P.H.  
Research Associate
Alex Repace, B.S.  
Senior Program Assistant

Board on Health Sciences Policy
Andrew M. Pope, Ph.D.  
Director