Message from the Co-Chairs

Bob Kadlec and Lynne Kidder

We are honored to share leadership of the Institute of 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 medical 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.

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 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 2012, the Forum conducted a workshop on long-term recovery of the health care service delivery infrastructure and sponsored a series of public engagement activities to explore the public’s viewpoints on ways to improve the distribution and dispensing of antiviral medications during a severe pandemic. In addition, in collaboration with the New York Academy of Medicine, the Forum convened a meeting of experts just 2 weeks after Hurricane Sandy to identify key research questions emerging from the disaster, with a focus on those that require immediate attention to ensure that relevant data is not lost.
The Forum’s membership has identified a number of activities for 2013, including

- A workshop to examine the need for robust nationwide community planning for risk communication, sheltering and evacuation guidelines, and a coordinated regional response to an improvised nuclear device incident;

- A workshop about the benefits and challenges of incorporating modeling tools and scenarios into public health preparedness planning;

- A workshop on the unique needs of pediatric populations, their families, and children with special health care needs that should be incorporated into medical and public health preparedness and planning efforts; and

- A workshop to examine the impact of the newly implemented Affordable Care Act (ACA) on medical and public health preparedness resources and programs nationwide.

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 that the Preparedness Forum continues 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 2012

Forum Meetings
The Forum’s focus in 2012 included the following preparedness research topics: the use of modeling for public policy; the responsibilities of nongovernmental organizations in disaster response; public engagement tools, including use of technology and social media; and intra-event surveillance of medical countermeasure safety and effectiveness. In addition, the Forum convened the activities and workshops described below.

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 the conference organizers, the Forum conducted a panel presentation at the 2012 Public Health Preparedness Summit that underscored that long-term recovery of the health care service delivery infrastructure requires a broad public–private partnership that endures well beyond the initial response to a disaster. This session provided participants with the opportunity to engage representatives from federal, state, and local governments and the nonprofit and private sectors on how best to ensure resilient health care delivery systems that can meet the long-term physical and behavioral health needs of affected populations. Discussions highlighted lessons learned from previous disasters and opportunities to leverage existing programs and activities across public, private, and nonprofit sectors in support of long-term recovery and mass casualty care. The work-
shop summary is available for download at http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Post-Incident-Recovery-Considerations-of-the-Health-Care-Service-Delivery-Infrastructure.aspx.

**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 have the primary responsibility for antiviral distribution and dispensing within their jurisdictions during a pandemic. During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, state and local authorities identified a number of challenges to be addressed in future planning. At the same time, the current fiscal climate has resulted in public health departments losing staff and, with them, preparedness and response planning resources. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been exploring alternative delivery systems that use partnerships to leverage the private sector’s
expertise in pharmaceutical distribution and dispensing, specifically for antiviral medications necessary to respond to a severe influenza pandemic.

In response to a request by the CDC, the Preparedness Forum convened a series of public engagement workshops to gauge public perception of the safety, feasibility, and acceptability of alternative distribution and dispensing methods. Workshops were held in Fort Benton, MT, Chattanooga, TN, and Los Angeles, CA, where participants considered how the normal systems for prescribing and dispensing antiviral medications might be modified to ensure quick, safe, and equitable access to potentially life-saving drugs for the public. The workshop summary series can be downloaded at http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Public-Engagement-on-Facilitating-Access-to-Antiviral-Medications.aspx.
Identifying Public Health and Medical Research Priorities: Data Needs Arising in Response to Hurricane Sandy (New York, NY, November, 2012)

At the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS’s) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and in collaboration with the New York Academy of Medicine, the Preparedness Forum convened a meeting in New York, NY, with more than 70 experts and practitioners to identify key research questions emerging from the early response to Hurricane Sandy. There was a strong focus on identifying research questions that required immediate attention in order to ensure that critical data would not be lost.

Participants represented both public- and private-sector medical management, public health professionals, and health care providers from throughout the New York City metropolitan area and the states of New York and New Jersey, and representatives from various federal agencies, as well as other prominent public health and disaster medicine experts from around the country. The Forum did not sponsor a formal product from this meeting, but discussions were robust and productive, identifying priority research needs that can help guide funders in their grant-making decisions related to Hurricane Sandy.
Looking Forward
Forum Activities in 2013

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum will hold regular meetings in January, April, and October 2013 to continue its focus on medical and public health preparedness challenges. In addition, the Forum is organizing the public meetings described below.

Medical and Public Health Preparedness to an Improvised Nuclear Device Incident—A Workshop (January 2013)
The Preparedness Forum, in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials, will host a workshop to consider medical and public health planning and response to a radiation/nuclear incident, with a specific focus on the potential impacts of a terrorist attack on neighboring jurisdictions. The workshop will examine the need for robust nationwide community planning for risk communication, command and control, sheltering and evacuation guidelines, and strategies for community reception centers in rural and urban jurisdictions surrounding the detonation site of an improvised nuclear device attack. The discussion will include how to assess radiation exposure and triage for very large populations in a very short time,
integrating disaster systems and health care institutions, coordinating the movement of many people, and issues related to crisis standards of care and the allocation of scarce resources.

**Engaging the Public in Critical Disaster Planning and Decision Making—A Workshop (March 2013)**
At the invitation of the conference organizers, the Forum is planning a workshop at the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit that will consider how to effectively enlist community interest and buy-in for pending policy decisions requiring difficult choices and competing values. This session will underscore the benefits of including the general public and community partners in critical disaster planning and decision making. It will provide participants with practical guidance on how to plan and implement public outreach activities, highlight existing tools and tested strategies for public engagement, and conclude with interactive table-top exercises.

**Decision Support and Modeling Resources for State and Local Public Health Departments—A Workshop (March 2013)**
Also scheduled for the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit, the Forum is organizing a workshop bringing together modelers and public health practitioners to augment decision support. The workshop will give participants insight into the benefits of using modeling to assist in public health preparedness and response decision making and will provide practical guidance on forging relationships between the modeling sector and public health practitioners. Presenters will demonstrate how modeling products can support the primary working modes of health departments, show successful real-world applications, and explain how these products align with Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Preparedness Program requirements.
Medical and Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response for Pediatric Populations and Families—A Workshop (June 2013)

The Preparedness Forum will host a public workshop examining public health and medical preparedness with respect to the unique needs of children and families, including those with special health care needs, throughout both the response and recovery phases of a disaster. The workshop will consider ways that state and local public health emergency planners can accommodate the distinct needs of children and families, collaborate with child care systems and critical community partners, and explore how public health can assist with child separation/family reunification issues.

The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on U.S. Preparedness Resources and Programs—A Workshop (Fall 2013)

With many elements of the ACA going into effect in 2013, and the establishment of many new rules and regulations, there have been and will continue to be significant changes to the U.S. health system. However, it is not clear what impact these changes will have on medical and public health preparedness. Therefore, the Preparedness Forum will conduct a workshop to examine how the changes to the health system, as mandated by the ACA, may impact the medical and public health preparedness systems and how the ACA may be leveraged to strengthen the resilience of the medical and public health preparedness systems.
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 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 paradigms 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 scarce resources during an event, state and local jurisdictional considerations, establishing regional coalitions, provider liability, credentialing, and palliative care.
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 in a mass causality incident.

International Disaster Response Working Group
The International Disaster Response Working Group centers on exploring issues and priorities surrounding international disaster response. Specifically, the group discusses issues related to economic and liability concerns when sharing resources internationally, negotiating assistance triggers and entrance and exit strategies, issues around ineffective or inefficient deployment of assets, and balancing international agreements with domestic obligations. These discussions will lay the foundation for future focused work in these areas.
Reports Released in 2012

Barriers to Integrating Crisis Standards of Care Principles into International Disaster Response Plans: Workshop Summary
Released: January 23, 2012

Public Engagement on Facilitating Access to Antiviral Medications and Information in an Influenza Pandemic: Workshop Series Summary
Released: May 17, 2012

Post-Incident Recovery Considerations of the Health Care Service Delivery Infrastructure: Workshop Summary
Released: July 31, 2012
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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 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.

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