

Standing Committee on Medical and Public Health Research During Large-Scale Emergency Events

Committee

David M. Abramson

Co-Chair

David M. Abramson, Ph.D., M.P.H. (Co-Chair), is the founding director of NYU's Program on Population Impact, Recovery and Resiliency (PiR2), a faculty member of NYU's College of Global Public Health, and an associate faculty member of the NYU Medical School's Department of Population Health. Prior to joining the NYU faculty in 2014, Abramson was the Deputy Director at Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute. Dr. Abramson has led a number of major research studies examining the long-term impacts of disasters on communities and on vulnerable populations, including children. These studies include the longitudinal Gulf Coast Child and Family Health (G-CAFH) Study, post-Hurricane Katrina, which has recently received funding from NIH to look at recovery 10 years after the storm, and the Sandy Child and Family Health (S-CAFH) Study currently being conducted in partnership with Rutgers University with funding from the New Jersey Department of Health. Dr. Abramson is also the co-investigator of the NIH-funded Women's and Their Children's Health (WaTCH) Study, exploring the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on children's long-term health, in collaboration with Louisiana State University. Among his research-to-action initiatives, Dr. Abramson is the co-founder and co-director of the SHOREline youth empowerment project with Colorado State University's Dr. Lori Peek, a curricular project-based learning program presently operating in a number of Gulf Coast and New York City high schools. In addition to the disaster recovery work related to Katrina, Sandy, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Abramson has studied short-term post-tornado community recovery in Joplin, Missouri, disaster recovery planning in four mid-sized US cities, risk communication strategies, and organizational and attitudinal aspects of disaster preparedness. Dr. Abramson received his PhD in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, with a specialization in political science, and an MPH from Columbia University as well. Over the past twenty-five years he has conducted research on HIV/AIDS, public health systems research, and civic engagement policy and practice. Prior to entering the field of public health, Dr. Abramson spent a decade as a national magazine journalist, having worked at or written for such publications as Rolling Stone, Esquire, and Outside magazines, among others.

Lynn R. Goldman

Co-Chair

Lynn R. Goldman, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., (NAM) (Co-Chair) a pediatrician and an epidemiologist, is the Michael and Lori Milken Dean of George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Formerly she was a Professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health Department of Environmental Health Sciences. In 1993, Dr. Goldman was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve as Assistant Administrator (AA) for the US Environmental Protection Agency, where she directed the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) from 1993 through 1998. As AA for OCSPP she was responsible for the nation's pesticide, toxic substances and pollution prevention laws. Under her watch, EPA overhauled the nation's pesticides laws to assure that children would be protected by pesticide regulations. At EPA she was successful in promoting children's health issues and furthering the international agenda for global chemical safety. Prior to joining the EPA, from 1985 until 1993, Dr. Goldman served in several positions at the California Department of Public Health, most recently as chief of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control. She has a BS in Conservation of Natural Resources, an M.S. in Health and Medical Sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, an MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and an MD from the University of California, San Francisco. She completed pediatric training at Children's Hospital, Oakland, California and is board-certified in pediatrics. She was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine in 2007. She has received several awards including the Woodrow Wilson Award for Distinguished Government Service from the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association (1999), Alumna of the Year from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health (2002), National Library of Medicine, Changing the Face of Women in Medicine (2003), election to the Delta Omega Honor Society (2007), and the Heinz Award for Global Change, (2010). Dr. Goldman currently is member of the Institute of Medicine Council, vice chairman of the Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, a member of the NAS Board on Environmental Sciences and Toxicology and a member of the NAS Report Review Committee. She serves as a member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Science Board and the Advisory Council to the Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Sharon Croisant

Member

Sharon Croisant, Ph.D. M.S., is an Associate Professor on the faculty of the School of Medicine's Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health. She is the lead instructor for the Foundations of Public Health Environmental Health component, which is an interactive course within the MPH program that examines factors in the environment that contribute to disease risk within the larger context of public health. Her doctorate is in epidemiology and master's in health promotion and education. She also currently directs the UTMB Center in Environmental Toxicology's Community-based Research Facility as well as its Community Outreach and Engagement Core. She is a Center investigator within the Institute for Translational Sciences, which houses the University's Clinical and Translational Science Award, for which she serves as co-director of the Community Engagement and Research Key Resource. A major focus of her career has been translational or integrative research, i.e., building interfaces between and among environmental and clinical research, education, and community health. She has considerable expertise in Community-Based Participatory Research, including its applications in Environmental Justice communities, and is currently the co-PI of a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to investigate the long-term health effects of consumption of Gulf seafood potentially contaminated by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She has collaborated on multiple projects designed to elucidate the causes and mechanisms of asthma exacerbations related to air pollution and has established long-standing, ongoing collaborative relationships with community stakeholders with a vested interest in using these research findings to direct community-based intervention and outreach activities. An active member of the UTMB faculty, she is the past chair of the institutional Faculty Senate and was recently selected to serve on a national Scientific Advisory Panel for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Aram Dobalian

Member

Aram Dobalian, Ph.D., M.P.H., J.D., is the founding Director of the Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center (VEMEC), the only national center within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) devoted to the study of cutting-edge operations and policy questions that support VA's public health preparedness and response responsibilities – to ensure timely access to high-quality care for veterans during disasters, and to support non-VA emergency management and homeland security efforts. As VEMEC's Director, he oversees all of its activities, including its applied research and evaluation projects. Since 2003, his research has focused on public health preparedness and response, including the development of inpatient and outpatient quality metrics, and work on community health resilience, crisis leadership, facility evacuation and sheltering, workforce readiness and training, and behavioral health. In 2008, he obtained support from senior VA leaders to develop a strategic plan that would position the VA as a national leader in disaster research by having VA serve as a “laboratory” for developing evidence-based emergency management practices that would benefit both VA and the Nation. He also led the National Program Evaluation of the VA Nursing Academy (VANA), a 5-year, \$60 million program consisting of partnerships between 18 VA facilities and 16 nursing schools. The purpose of VANA, now expanded and renamed the VA Nursing Academic Partnerships (VANAP) program, was to promote innovations in nursing education and practice. This project was also supported by funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the national “Conference on Enhancing Nursing Undergraduate Teaching and Learning in the Clinical Setting: What do we know and how do we move forward?” He is a member of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, the Upsilon Phi Delta National Academic Honor Society in Healthcare Administration, and the State Bar of California. He currently teaches courses on health systems and health policy at UCLA, where he is an Adjunct Professor of Health Policy and Management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and at the UCLA School of Nursing.

Sandro Galea

Member

Sandro Galea, M.D., Dr.P.H., M.P.H., (NAM) is a physician and an epidemiologist. He is Dean and Professor at the Boston University School of Public Health. Prior to his appointment at Boston University, Dr. Galea served as the Anna Cheskis Gelman and Murray Charles Gelman Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health where he launched several new educational initiatives and substantially increased its focus on six core areas: chronic, infectious, injury, lifecourse, psychiatric/neurological, and social epidemiology. He previously held academic and leadership positions at the University of Michigan and at the New York Academy of Medicine. In his own scholarship, Dr. Galea is centrally interested in the social production of health of urban populations, with a focus on the causes of brain disorders, particularly common mood-anxiety disorders and substance abuse. He has long had a particular interest in the consequences of mass trauma and conflict worldwide, including as a result of the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina, conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, and the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This work has been principally funded by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and several foundations. He has published over 500 scientific journal articles, 50 chapters and commentaries, and 9 books and his research has been featured extensively in current periodicals and newspapers. His latest book, co-authored with Dr Katherine Keyes, is an epidemiology textbook, *Epidemiology Matters: a new introduction to methodological foundations*. Dr. Galea has a medical degree from the University of Toronto, and graduate degrees from Harvard University and Columbia University; he has an honorary doctorate from the University of Glasgow. He was named one of TIME magazine's epidemiology innovators in 2006. He is past-president of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and an elected member of the American Epidemiological Society and of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. Dr. Galea serves frequently on advisory groups to national and international organizations. He has formerly served as chair of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Community Services Board and as member of its Health Board.

James Kendra

Member

James Kendra, Ph.D., M.S., is a Professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration and Director of the Disaster Research Center at University of Delaware. Previously he was coordinator of the Emergency Administration and Planning Program in the Department of Public Administration at the University of North Texas. His research interests focus on individual and organizational responses to risk, improvisation and creativity during crisis, post-disaster shelter and housing, and planning for behavioral health services. Projects have included research on the reestablishment of New York City's emergency operations center after the 9/11 attacks, a major study of the waterborne evacuation of Manhattan on 9/11, research on the social impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami, and research on the organization of disaster behavioral health services. Dr. Kendra has participated in several quick response disaster reconnaissance trips, including the 2001 World Trade Center attacks, 2003 Midwest tornadoes, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and Hurricane Ike in 2008, as well as documenting maritime relief efforts in the US following the 2010 Haiti earthquake. He has been involved in several emergency planning and exercise efforts, and he is a Certified Emergency Manager. He graduated from Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a degree in marine transportation, and served several years at sea, attaining a Master Mariner license. His master's degree is in geography from the University of Massachusetts, and his PhD is in geography from Rutgers University.

James V. Lawler

Member

CDR James Lawler, M.D., M.P.H., FIDSA, is the Clinical Research Department Head, Biodefense Research Directorate, Naval Medical Research Center-Frederick, Ft. Detrick, MD. He also leads the Austere Environment Consortium for Enhanced Sepsis Outcomes (ACESO), an international team of researchers focused on improving the clinical management of all-cause sepsis in resource-limited settings. CDR Lawler holds positions as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University (USUHS) and Attending Physician in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. CDR. Lawler's career has focused on research and policy for emerging infectious disease threats and medical and public health preparedness. Past duty stations include two positions on the White House staff. From 2006 – 2008, Dr. Lawler was assigned as Director for Medical Preparedness and Biodefense Policy and Acting Senior Director for Biodefense Policy within the Homeland Security Council, leading the Federal interagency policy process for preparedness and response related to naturally occurring and deliberate biological threats to the homeland. During the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, Dr. Lawler was recalled to the National Security Council to develop and coordinate implementation of national policy for response to the pandemic. Dr. Lawler continued to lead the development of new national policy for the national medical countermeasure (MCM) enterprise directed against future public health threats until late 2010.

Octavio N. Martinez

Member

Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., F.A.P.A., a licensed psychiatrist, is the fifth executive director and the first Hispanic to lead the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health since its creation in 1940. The foundation's grants and programs support mental health services, research, policy analysis and public education projects in Texas. As chief executive officer, he oversees the vision, mission, goals, strategic planning and day-to-day operations of the foundation. The Hogg Foundation is part of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Martinez holds an appointment of Associate Vice-President within the division. He is also a clinical professor with an appointment in the university's School of Social Work; and holds an adjunct professor appointment at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry. His academic interests include minority health, health disparities, and workforce issues. In addition to his administrative and academic duties, he currently serves on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on the Governance and Financing of Graduate Medical Education. He formerly served on the IOM's Committee on the Mental Health Workforce for Geriatric Populations. He is on the board of the National Hispanic Council on Aging. He is a commissioner on the Supreme Court of Texas Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families and a member of the University of Texas - University Charter School Advisory Board. Dr. Martinez is a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the American College of Mental Health Administration, the National Hispanic Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, and the Texas Society for Psychiatric Physicians. From 2002 to 2006 he served as a Special Emphasis Panel Member for the National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. He was awarded a Shining Lights Award for Excellence in Hispanic Mental Health Advocacy and Leadership in 2012 by the National Resource Center for Hispanic Mental Health and he is a recipient of the 2008 Adolph Meyer, M.D. Research Award in recognition of contributions in minority health and efforts to improve the mental health of all citizens regardless of socioeconomic status by The Center for Health Care Services. Dr. Martinez is licensed to practice medicine in Texas and North Carolina and is a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Carol S. North

Member

Carol North, M.D., MPE, serves as Medical Director of the Altshuler Center for Education & Research at Metrocare Services in Dallas, Texas. She holds The Nancy and Ray L. Hunt Chair in Crisis Psychiatry and is Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Dr. North completed medical school and residency training in psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri, followed by a NIMH fellowship and a Masters degree, both in psychiatric epidemiology, at the same institution. She served 18 years on the faculty of Washington University, advancing to Professor of Psychiatry before moving to Dallas in 2005 to join the full-time faculty of The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. For more than a quarter of a century, Dr. North has continuously conducted federally funded research into disaster mental health, psychiatric aspects of medical illness, and psychosocial problems of homeless populations, and during this time she developed specialized education programs for professionals, patients, and families, provided direct patient care, and administered treatment programs for homeless and seriously psychiatrically ill patients. Dr. North has been an international leader in shaping the science of disaster mental health. She and her research team studied 3,500 survivors of more than a dozen major disasters that include the bombings in Oklahoma City and the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, the Capitol Hill anthrax attacks, the September 11 (9/11) terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, and Hurricane Katrina. Dr. North has provided expertise and leadership in major disaster response operations, and a disaster mental health training program she developed (P-FLASH: Practical Front Line Assistance and Support for Healing), originally commissioned by the September 11 Fund, has trained tens of thousands of mental health and other medical and emergency professionals on disaster preparedness and response nationally. Dr. North has authored more than 240 peer-reviewed scientific published articles and three books, served on scientific editorial boards, and chaired and served on committees for federal grant review and for development of terrorism policy for the Institute of Medicine. She testified to the US Senate, advised the State Department, the Carter Center, and the White House on disaster mental health; informed the FDA about post-traumatic stress; provided consultation to New York City's Department of Health on post-9/11 mental health response; and served on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee and on the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response.

Herminia Palacio

Member

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services in January 2016. In this role, she oversees the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Health + Hospitals, Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, Administration for Children's Services, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Office of Food Policy, and the Center for Innovation through Data Intelligence. With 25 years of clinical, public health and policy experience, Dr. Palacio is tasked with addressing homelessness across the five boroughs, developing a citywide network for mental health support, coordinating across the City's public healthcare system, improving access to social services for all New Yorkers, and ensuring agencies that oversee the City's most vulnerable populations, such as children and victims of domestic violence, are run compassionately and effectively. Dr. Palacio joined the de Blasio Administration with extensive public health experience across a broad range of sectors, including academic, government, clinical and non-profit. She most recently served as Director of Advancing Change Leadership at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), where she was responsible for developing and implementing new health leadership programs. In addition to her work at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in Harris County and San Francisco, Herminia has also held a number of academic appointments, including adjunct professor in Management, Policy, and Community Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston from 2006 to 2014. She also taught at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine. Herminia received her medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and holds a Masters of Public Health, from the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, and a BA in biology from Barnard College at Columbia University. She has authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Peter Palese

Member

Peter Palese, Ph.D., (NAS, NAM) is Horace W. Goldsmith Professor and Chair of Microbiology and Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. An internationally renowned microbiologist, Peter Palese, Ph.D., pioneered the field of reverse genetics for negative-strand RNA viruses, which allows the introduction of site-specific mutations into the genomes of these viruses. This revolutionary technique is crucial for the study of the structure/function relationships of viral genes, for investigation of viral pathogenicity, and for development and manufacture of novel vaccines. The technique has significant implications in understanding and preparing against infectious disease pandemics. Reverse genetics allowed Dr. Palese and his colleagues to reconstruct and study the pathogenicity of the highly virulent but extinct 1918 pandemic influenza virus also known as the "Spanish flu." His recent work in collaboration with Mount Sinai virologists Adolfo García-Sastre, PhD, and Florian Krammer, PhD, is on developing a universal influenza virus vaccine.

H. R. Rao

Member

H. Raghav Rao, Ph.D., is AT&T Chair Professor of ISCS at UTSA. Rao graduated from Krannert Graduate School of Management at Purdue University. His interests are in the areas of management information systems, decision support systems, e-business, emergency response management systems and information assurance. He has chaired sessions at international conferences and presented numerous papers. He also has co-edited four books, of which one is on Information Assurance in Financial Services). He has authored or co-authored more than 175 technical papers, of which more than 100 are published in archival journals. Rao's work has received best paper and best paper runner up awards at AMCIS and ICIS. He has received funding for his research from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and the Canadian Embassy, and he has received the university's prestigious Teaching Fellowship. He also received the Fulbright fellowship in 2004. In 2015, Rao's h-index was 40 and his i-10 index was 101. He is a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy.

Monica Schoch-Spana

Member

Monica Schoch-Spana, Ph.D., a medical anthropologist, is a Senior Associate with the UPMC Center for Health Security, Associate Professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Texas State University. Her research and policy interests include disaster resilience, public health emergency preparedness, and nuclear incident management. Schoch-Spana's current projects focus on local health department capacity for community engagement, communication dilemmas concerning medical countermeasures, and public participation in the development of policies for allocating scarce medical resources in a disaster. Since 1998, Schoch-Spana has briefed federal, state, and local officials, as well as medical, public health, and public safety professionals, on critical issues in health security. National advisory roles include serving on the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council (NRC), and the NRC Committee on Increasing National Resilience to Hazards and Disasters. She is a member of the faculty and steering committee for the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a university-based center of excellence supported by the US Department of Homeland Security. Schoch-Spana has led research, education, and advocacy efforts to encourage authorities to enlist the public's contributions in epidemic and disaster management. Her studies have been influential in debunking myths about mass behaviors in the context of bioterrorism and other health crises and in reframing the management of catastrophic health events to include social, ethical-moral, and governance dimensions. She has chaired national working groups to produce peer-reviewed, evidence-based consensus guidance for authorities on how to partner with citizens and civil society in relation to bioterrorism response, influenza pandemic planning, and nuclear incident preparedness, and she has organized 3 national meetings on how to strengthen community resilience to extreme health events. In 2003, Dr. Schoch-Spana helped establish the Center; prior to that she worked at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies starting in 1998. She received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Johns Hopkins University (1998) and a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College (1986).