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 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. The active participation of forum members and other interested stakeholders continues to make the forum relevant to the dynamic enterprise that keeps Americans healthy and saves lives during disasters.

We are committed to strengthening the roles and impact of the forum by 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 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 2013, the forum conducted workshops on community planning for response to an improvised nuclear device (IND) attack and incorporating the unique needs of children and families into disaster response planning. It also sponsored two sessions at the Public Health Preparedness Summit—one on public engagement and one on the use of modeling in local public health departments. The forum closed the year with a 2-day workshop on the potential impacts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on U.S. preparedness resources and programs.
The forum’s membership has identified a number of topics for 2014, including

- a regional workshop series that will explore opportunities to strengthen regional coordination during response to a large-scale multi-jurisdictional disaster—including mass care, medical shelters, and patient transportation;

- continued focus on international disaster response and recovery;

- the progress and challenges of communities planning for incorporating the crisis standards of care continuum;

- the resilience and protection of critical health-sector infrastructure from cyber attacks and related threats;

- the importance of conducting health and medical research during disasters and how to make this process more streamlined and operational; and

- examining preparedness-related issues specific to environmental health and climate change.

As co-chairs, we bring 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 you and our other colleagues to ensure that the Preparedness Forum continues its tradition of education, active contribution, and consensus building toward greater medical and public health preparedness.

Bob Kadlec
Co-Chair

Lynne Kidder
Co-Chair
Reflecting Back
Forum Activities in 2013

Forum Meetings
The forum’s focus in 2013 included the following preparedness topics: Hurricane Sandy response on the East Coast, especially the use of social media; international disaster response and recovery roles; the vulnerability and protection of critical electronic health infrastructure; and improving disaster preparedness financing. In addition, the forum convened activities and workshops described below.

Nationwide Response Issues After an Improvised Nuclear Device Attack: Medical and Public Health Considerations for Neighboring Jurisdictions: An Institute of Medicine Workshop
On January 23-24, 2013, in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the forum hosted a workshop that focused on key response requirements for local and regional public health and health care systems in response to an IND detonation. Topics discussed at the workshop included understanding the differences between types of radiation incidents and the implications of an IND attack on outlying communities, as well as the roles of regional health care coalitions in coordination of health care response. The full report, along with a companion infographic, can be downloaded at http://iom.edu/INDresponse.
Engaging the Public in Critical Disaster Planning and Decision Making—A Workshop (March 2013)

At the invitation of conference organizers, the forum held a workshop at the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit that considered how to effectively obtain community interest and buy-in for pending policy decisions requiring difficult choices and competing values. The workshop underscored the benefits of including the general public and community partners in critical disaster planning and decision making. It also provided participants with practical guidance on how to plan and implement public outreach activities, highlighted existing tools and tested strategies for public engagement, and concluded with interactive tabletop exercises. The full report can be downloaded at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18396.

Decision Support and Modeling Resources for State and Local Public Health Departments—A Workshop (March 2013)

Also at the 2013 Public Health Preparedness Summit, the forum hosted a workshop that brought together experts in mathematical models and public health practitioners to augment decision support. The workshop gave participants insight into the benefits of using modeling to assist in public health prepared-
ness and response decision making and provided practical guidance on forging relationships between the modeling sector and public health practitioners. Presenters demonstrated how modeling products can support the primary working modes of health departments, showed successful real-world applications, and explained how these products can align with Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Preparedness Program requirements.

**Medical and Public Health Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Considerations for Children and Families—A Workshop (June 2013)**
The forum hosted a public workshop examining public health and medical preparedness through the lens of the unique needs of children and families, including those with special health care needs, throughout both the response and the recovery phases.
of a disaster. The workshop reviewed already-existing tools and frameworks, as well as partnerships and organizations with vested interest that can be leveraged in planning to improve outcomes and allow for children and family considerations to be integrated throughout local and state emergency plans. A special focus on resilience and recovery highlighted current research and best practices already being employed, specifically for children, and the opportunities that exist to further explore successful recovery strategies. The full report and an accompanying infographic are available for download at www.iom.edu/childrenpreparation.

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

With many provisions of the ACA going into effect in 2013 and the establishment of many new rules and regulations, there are significant changes to the U.S. health system. The forum hosted a workshop to examine how changes to the health system as a result of the ACA may impact medical and public health preparedness programs across the nation and how ACA provisions may be leveraged to strengthen the resilience of the medical and public health preparedness systems. Beginning with discussions on changing finance and delivery models and moving to more detailed conversations on roles and potential in threat identification and information technology infrastructure, participants explored current and future opportunities for protecting the nation’s health in disasters through new relationships, coordinated technology, and more integrated care. A summary will be available in spring 2014.
Looking Forward

Forum Activities in 2014

Forum Meetings
The Preparedness Forum will host meetings of its membership in April and October 2014 to continue its focus on medical and public health preparedness challenges. In addition, the forum is organizing the public meetings described below.

Regional Disaster Response Coordination to Support Health Outcomes: A Workshop Series (March–November 2014)
The Preparedness Forum will organize and conduct a series of three regional workshops across U.S. cities that will explore opportunities to strengthen regional coordination in response to a large-scale multi-jurisdictional disaster. Each regional workshop will discuss mechanisms to strengthen coordination among multiple jurisdictions in individual regions to ensure fair and equitable treatment for communities from all impacted jurisdictions. Local, state, and national leaders will be invited to share their efforts and experiences in organizing regional disaster response plans. In addition, other key stakeholders, including a broad spectrum of providers from emergency management, first responder, medical, and public health sectors will also be invited to participate in the discussions. Specific topics will include mass care, medical needs shelters, and patient evacuation and transportation across jurisdictions.

Crisis Standards of Care: Lessons from the Report Series and Community Plans (April 2014)
The Preparedness Forum will plan and conduct a public workshop at the 2014 Preparedness Summit. This session will provide attendees with an overview of the underlying principles of the care continuum and crisis standards of care outlined in the IOM’s 2012 *Crisis Standards of Care* report, including an update on the recent followup report on indicators and triggers. The workshop will include small-group sessions for attendees to brainstorm potential barriers or challenges that might be
encountered when engaging specific stakeholder groups in discussions in their own communities. It will also feature examples of lessons learned from jurisdictions that have begun the process of developing their plans, how they addressed the challenges encountered, and progress made to date.

**National Preparedness Impacts of the Affordable Care Act (April 2014)**

Also scheduled for the 2014 Preparedness Summit, the forum is organizing a workshop session to highlight key themes and opportunities that were identified at a recent IOM workshop on preparedness impacts of the ACA. Discussions will focus on some of the challenges presented by the ACA, as well as what the preparedness community can do to leverage provisions to strengthen the resilience of the medical and public health preparedness systems. For example, changes to data collected through health information technology may present areas for public health to form new partnerships and access population data that may not have been possible previously. In addition, changing infrastructure may allow for different opportunities for surge capacity or workforce
capability. Through case studies of different organizations at various stages of implementation, discussions will also include real-life challenges and possibilities being explored as new provisions are put into action.

**Enabling Rapid Medical and Public Health Research During Disasters—A Workshop (June 2014)**
The Preparedness Forum will host a public workshop in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) examining the impacts of previous disasters on the academic research community and potential for important health and medical research during future emergencies. Topics will include existing data collection tools that can be replicated for widespread, standardized use; technology standards and how information sharing can be improved; and potential guidelines for informed consent and institutional review boards during emergency use scenarios. The workshop will also explore case studies from research institutions that were recently funded to study recovery in the northeast in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.
Areas of Focus

The forum has a number of current areas of focus. In some cases, these focus areas lead to the establishment of working groups that engage in regular discussions, usually via teleconference, on topics of interest. Workshop topics often originate from working groups and are organized by an independently appointed workshop planning committee.

Medical Countermeasures
Medical Countermeasures 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
Mass Casualty Care explores issues including 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
Community Resilience explores 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 after a mass casualty incident.
Potential Pandemic Threats
The working group on Business and Operational Models to Ensure Medical Countermeasures for Potential Pandemic Threats focuses on business and funding strategies to strengthen budget and operational preparedness for responding to catastrophic infectious diseases with pandemic potential in humans, including pandemic influenza. The group discusses challenges and strategies for maintaining current product development and manufacturing capabilities/capacities necessary to ensure timely availability of medical countermeasures for infectious diseases of pandemic potential. Discussions also include ensuring the system flexibility necessary to support an effective response to these unique low-probability events. The examination will include relevant recent case studies of “real” or possible influenza pandemics such as the H1N1 Influenza A pdm (2009); H3N2v, MERS-CoV, and the nascent H7N9 influenza A strain in China.
Reports and Other Publications Released in 2013

  Released: July 9, 2013

- Engaging the Public in Critical Disaster Planning and Decision Making: Workshop Summary
  Released: August 23, 2013

- Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Considerations for Children and Families: Workshop Summary
  Released: December 10, 2013

- Infographic: What Should You Know About Planning for an Improvised Nuclear Device Attack?

- Infographic: Taking Care of Kids? Are You Prepared for an Emergency?
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Forum Sponsorship

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

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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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