

2026 Medical Leadership in Disaster Preparedness and Response Virtual Conference – May 11, 2026

Time	Session Title	Description	Speakers/Panelists
12:00-12:15 PM ET	Introductory Remarks		<p>ASPR and ACEP Leadership</p> <p>Rachel Lehman, Acting Director, ASPR Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) (Conference Master of Ceremonies)</p>
12:15-1:15 PM ET	Responding to the CrowdStrike Failure Event: Assuring Readiness for the Inevitable Failure of Complex Systems	The speakers will present a case study on how a health system responded to and recovered from a cyber incident resulting in downtime. Topics will include lessons learned on maintaining operations and protecting patient safety when usual systems cannot be relied upon.	<p>Paul Biddinger, MD, FACEP, Chief Preparedness and Continuity Officer, Mass General Brigham (MGB) and Chief, MGB Division of Emergency Preparedness</p> <p>Adam Landman, MD, FACEP, Chief Digital Information Officer and Senior Vice President (SVP), Brown University Health and Member of the Faculty, Department of Emergency Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School, Brown University</p>
1:15-1:25 PM ET	Break		
1:25-2:25 PM ET	Patient Care during Disasters: What to do When Standards Don't Exist	Leaders often face challenges developing and implementing best practices during dynamic disaster situations in the context of scarce resources and evolving knowledge and experience. These challenges also occur in non-disaster situations, such as during product shortages and seasonal patient surges. A panel of health care and public health practitioners will offer insights on how they navigated decision-making in a variety of situations to implement standards for the benefit of patients and other stakeholders.	<p>Moderator: Bryan Wexler, MD, MPH, CHPCP, CHEC-III, Medical Director, Disaster Preparedness and Response, WellSpan Health; Director, Division of Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management, Department of Emergency Medicine, WellSpan, York Hospital; and Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine</p> <p>Panelists: Shannon Manzi, PharmD, BCPPS, CHPHRM, PPA, Director, Safety and Quality, Department of Pharmacy, Boston Children's Hospital; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; and Lead Pharmacist, Massachusetts-1 DMAT</p> <p>Anuj Mehta, MD, MS, Chair, Medical Advisory Panel, Mountain Plains Regional Disaster Health Response System; Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine; and Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician, Denver Health and Hospital Authority</p> <p>John Hick, MD, Hennepin Healthcare and Senior Editor, ASPR TRACIE</p>

<p>2:25-2:45 PM ET</p>	<p>Update on Disaster Medicine as a Subspecialty</p>	<p>In February, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved Disaster Medicine as a new subspecialty. Establishment of this certification will help ensure that communities have improved access to physicians with advanced knowledge and skills across all phases of disaster care. A leader in this effort will update attendees on next steps now that the subspecialty has been established.</p>	<p>Bryan Wexler, MD, MPH, CHPCP, CHEC-III, Medical Director, Disaster Preparedness and Response, WellSpan Health; Director, Division of Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management, Department of Emergency Medicine, WellSpan, York Hospital; and Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine</p>
<p>2:45-2:55 PM ET</p>	<p>Break</p>		
<p>2:55-3:55 PM ET</p>	<p>Using Data to Drive Decisions</p>	<p>There is often a gap between data collected during disasters and its application to the response or future improvement activities. Speakers will share how they used data collected during previous emergencies to address questions and challenges, including using electronic health records and other data streams in decision-making and exploring the effects of hospital strain on patient outcomes.</p>	<p>Moderator: Angela Cornelius, MD, MA, Associate System Medical Director, Office of the Medical Director, Fort Worth Metropolitan Area EMS Authority and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, TCU/UNTHSC and LSU Shreveport</p> <p>Panelists: Christian Dameff, MD, MS, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Medicine's Division of Biomedical Informatics, University of California, San Diego</p> <p>Sameer Kadri, MD, MS, Intensivist and Head, Clinical Epidemiology Section, Critical Care Medicine Department, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center</p>
<p>3:55-4:15 PM ET</p>	<p>Tools and Resources to Prepare for Health Care Surge</p>	<p>Health care facilities and providers can be overwhelmed by patient surges from incidents ranging from seasonal illness outbreaks to mass shootings. The speaker will highlight recently developed tools, templates, and other resources to help health care providers and facilities prepare for and respond to patient surges.</p>	<p>John Hick, MD, Hennepin Healthcare and Senior Editor, ASPR TRACIE</p>
<p>4:15-4:30 PM ET</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p>This closing session will recap some of the key learnings and feedback from the virtual conference as well as future plans for the conference.</p>	<p>Rachel Lehman, Acting Director, ASPR TRACIE (Conference Master of Ceremonies)</p>