

# Medical Leadership in Disaster Preparedness and Response

## Brief Speaker Biographies

May 11, 2026

### **Paul D. Biddinger, MD, FACEP**

- Chief Preparedness and Continuity Officer, Mass General Brigham (MGB)
- Chief, MGB Division of Emergency Preparedness
  - *Speaker, Responding to the CrowdStrike Failure Event: Assuring Readiness for the Inevitable Failure of Complex Systems*
  - *Member, Conference Planning Committee*

Dr. Paul Biddinger is the Chief Preparedness and Continuity Officer at MGB and the Chief of the Division of Emergency Preparedness in the Department of Emergency Medicine at MGB. He holds the Ann L. Prestipino MPH Endowed Chair in Emergency Preparedness and is also the Director of the Center for Disaster Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Dr. Biddinger additionally serves as the Director of the Emergency Preparedness Research, Evaluation and Practice (EPREP) Program at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and holds appointments at Harvard Medical School and at the Chan School. Dr. Biddinger serves as a medical officer for the Massachusetts-1 (MA-1) Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Biddinger is an active researcher in the field of emergency preparedness and has lectured nationally and internationally on topics of preparedness and disaster medicine. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters on multiple topics related to disaster medicine and emergency medical operations and has responded to numerous disaster incidents, including Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, the Boston Marathon bombings, and the Nepal earthquakes. He completed his undergraduate study in international relations at Princeton University, attended medical school at Vanderbilt University, and completed residency training in emergency medicine at Harvard.

### **Angela P. Cornelius, MD, MA, FACEP, FAEMS**

- Associate System Medical Director, Fort Worth Office of the Medical Director
- Program Director, EMS Fellowship, Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center
- Core Faculty, John Peter Smith Hospital Fort Worth Emergency Medicine Residency
- Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, Texas Christian University (TCU) School of Medicine
- Associate Professor, Louisiana State University (LSU)-Shreveport Emergency Medicine Residency
  - *Moderator, From Data to Action: Closing the Loop Between Disaster Data and Real-World Impact*

Dr. Angela Cornelius is Associate System Medical Director for the Fort Worth Office of the Medical Director. Her primary responsibilities include Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Emergency Medical

Services (EMS) Innovations. She is the program director for the Baylor All Saints EMS Fellowship and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine with TCU School of Medicine and LSU Shreveport, who practices at Baylor All Saints and John Peter Smith Hospital as core faculty in the Fort Worth Emergency Medicine Residency. She is boarded in Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, and EMS, and holds a master's in International Disaster Management. She is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the Academy of Emergency Medical Services. She has been active in disaster medicine and EMS for over 10 years, with multiple deployments with the NDMS Trauma Critical Care and Disaster Critical Care Air Transport teams. She serves as the immediate past chair of the ACEP Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, immediate past Chair of the ACEP Air Medical section, and current chair of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Emergency Preparedness Committee. She is also the immediate past president of the Louisiana Chapter of NAEMSP and President-elect of the Texas Chapter of NAEMSP. She is active in legislative affairs as the Texas NAEMSP advocacy co-chair, a Task Force member of the NAEMSP State Advocacy Task Force, and a member of the Texas College of Emergency Physicians Government Relations Committee. Current administrative projects include creating more robust community paramedicine programs and the EMS induction of buprenorphine.

### **Christian Dameff, MD, MS**

- Associate Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Computer Science, University of California (UC) San Diego
- Co-Director, UC San Diego Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity
- Medical Director of Cybersecurity, UC San Diego Health
  - *Speaker, From Data to Action: Closing the Loop Between Disaster Data and Real-World Impact*

Dr. Dameff is a practicing emergency physician, clinical informatician, and cybersecurity researcher. He is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Emergency Medicine, Biomedical Informatics, and Computer Science at UC San Diego. He also serves as Co-Director of the UC San Diego Center for Healthcare Cybersecurity and as the Medical Director of Cybersecurity for UC San Diego Health. Dr. Dameff's research examines the impact of ransomware cyberattacks on patient safety, care delivery, and health care system resilience. His work aims to advance global awareness of health care cybersecurity threats and to develop strategies that improve the sector's ability to withstand and recover from such events. He has secured research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health. A frequent advisor to national policymakers, Dr. Dameff has provided expert testimony before the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on health care cybersecurity risks, including medical device vulnerabilities.

### **Romeo Fairley, MD, MPH**

- Associate Professor, University of Colorado Anschutz
- Chair, Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee, ACEP
- Member, Board of Directors, World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine
- *Speaker, Closing Remarks*

Dr. Romeo Fairley is a board-certified emergency medicine physician employed as an Associate Professor at University of Colorado Anschutz. He completed medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. After completion of an Emergency Medicine residency program in Austin, Texas; he moved to Orange County, California for a Disaster Medicine fellowship at UC Irvine. He also has a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Public Health Administration from the University of South Florida. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Disaster Preparedness and Response committee for the American College of Emergency Physicians and serves on the board of directors for the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine.

### **John Hick, MD**

- Hennepin Healthcare
- Senior Editor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE)
- *Speaker, Tools and Resources to Prepare for Health Care Surge and Patient Care during Disasters: What to do When Standards Don't Exist*
- *Member, Conference Planning Committee*

Dr. Hick is a faculty emergency physician at Hennepin Healthcare and a Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Minnesota Medical School. He serves as the Associate Medical Director for Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services and Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness at Hennepin Healthcare. He served the Minnesota Department of Health as the Medical Director for the Office of Emergency Preparedness from 2002-2014. He currently serves as the Senior Editor for ASPR TRACIE. He is an expert on hospital preparedness and crisis medical care issues and has published over fifty peer-reviewed papers dealing with hospital preparedness for contaminated casualties, disaster standards of care, and surge capacity.

### **Sameer S. Kadri, MD, MS**

- Intensivist and Head, Clinical Epidemiology Section, Critical Care Medicine Department (CCMD), National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (NIHCC)
- *Speaker, From Data to Action: Closing the Loop Between Disaster Data and Real-World Impact*
- *Member, Conference Planning Committee*

Dr. Sameer Kadri is a senior investigator and head of the Clinical Epidemiology Section in the CCMD at the NIHCC. He completed his medical education at Seth GS Medical College in Mumbai, India, internal medicine residency at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center, infectious diseases fellowship at MGH in Boston, MA, Critical Care fellowship at the NIHCC, and masters in

Clinical Epidemiology at the T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health. He went on to join the senior staff of CCMD in NIHCC as a staff clinician and, in 2016, established the Clinical Epidemiology Section, a data lab in CCMD that leverages large healthcare databases to gain real-world insights on the epidemiology of lethal infections such as those associated with sepsis, antibiotic resistance, and emerging pathogens. When the pandemic hit the U.S., he immediately rallied his team to use near-real-time data to respond to burning questions from federal agencies on surge capacity and demonstrated incredible protection from COVID-19 vaccines using real-world data. He has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has been awarded 7 interagency grants from the FDA as well as grant funding from the Arnold Ventures Foundation. His research has been showcased by multiple top media outlets including CNN, NPR, New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and Bloomberg. He has received many awards for his research, including an NIH Director's Award, two Clinical Center CEO Awards, a Society of Critical Care Medicine Gold Medal, and the 2022 Harvard Emerging Public Health Professional Award, awarded to an alumnus with extraordinary public health contributions within 10 years of graduation. He serves on technical expert panels for other HHS agencies like the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE).

#### **Adam Landman, MD, FACEP**

- Chief Digital Information Officer and Senior Vice President, Brown University Health
- Member of the Faculty, Department of Emergency Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University
  - *Speaker, Responding to the CrowdStrike Failure Event: Assuring Readiness for the Inevitable Failure of Complex Systems*

Dr. Adam Landman is Chief Digital Information Officer at Brown University Health in Providence, Rhode Island, and a member of the faculty in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He is an attending emergency physician and a nationally recognized expert in health information technology and digital health design, development, and implementation. Previously, Dr. Landman served for 15 years at Brigham and Women's Hospital and MGB, most recently as Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President. In that role, he was responsible for technology solution delivery and support across all MGB hospitals and practices, collaborating with clinical and operational leaders to design and implement the system's digital strategy, ensuring that frontline needs for digital capabilities were met while incorporating emerging technologies into care delivery. He also held a faculty appointment as Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

#### **Rachel Lehman**

- Acting Director, ASPR TRACIE
  - *Speaker, Introductory and Closing Remarks*
  - *Member, Conference Planning Committee*

Rachel Lehman is the Acting System Owner and Director for ASPR TRACIE. She previously served as an analyst in ASPR's Division of Critical Infrastructure Protection where she led communications,

helped manage the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Partnership, and worked on all-hazards risk assessment for the health care sector. Prior to joining ASPR, she supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development working on chemical risk assessment.

### **Shannon Manzi, PharmD, BCPPS, CHPHRM, FPPA**

- Director, Safety and Quality, Department of Pharmacy, Boston Children's Hospital
- Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
- Pharmacist, MA-1 DMAT
- *Speaker, Patient Care during Disasters: What to do When Standards Don't Exist*

Dr. Shannon Manzi has practiced pediatric pharmacy for more than 25 years, specializing in medication safety, pediatric emergency medicine, disaster medicine and pharmacogenomics. She currently serves as the Director of Safety and Quality for the Department of Pharmacy at Boston Children's Hospital and holds a faculty position as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Manzi is the lead pharmacist for the MA-1 DMAT and has deployed more than 20 times to various disasters, including major hurricanes and floods (most recently Hurricane Helene in North Carolina), the Haitian earthquake, Unaccompanied Minor Border Crossing mission, multiple COVID-19 hospital augmentation missions, and numerous National Security Special Events. She has served as a consultant for the National Advisory Committee on Children and Terrorism and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and as President for the Pediatric Pharmacy Association. She actively contributes to Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), OPENPediatrics, Up-to-date, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to improve pediatric medication safety. She has authored over 50 publications and presented numerous national and international workshops and lectures on medication safety, pediatric emergency medicine, pharmacogenomics, simulation, and disaster related topics.

### **Brian Mazanec, PhD**

- Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director, Center for Preparedness, ASPR
- *Speaker, Introductory and Closing Remarks*

Brian Mazanec is a Deputy Assistant Secretary and the Director of the Center for Preparedness within ASPR. ASPR's Center for Preparedness helps advance a full range of preparedness activities for public health emergencies and disasters, including leading the Medical Reserve Corps, National Special Pathogen System, HHS continuity of operations and continuity of government activities, and departmental planning and exercises. Prior to his current role, Brian served as Deputy Director of the ASPR Center for Preparedness and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security, Intelligence, and Information Management.

Prior to joining ASPR, Brian served at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where he was the senior executive responsible for leading the agency's Strategic Warfare and Intelligence portfolio. He led and managed numerous teams evaluating a variety of national security programs and

activities related to biological and other emerging threats; intelligence community management; security and counterintelligence; sensitive activities and programs; personnel vetting; and space policy and operations. Brian also previously worked on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) issues at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear Matters, and the Joint Staff J5 Combating WMD directorate.

Brian received his PhD in Biodefense from George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government and holds a BA in political science from the University of Richmond and a MS in defense and strategic studies from Missouri State University's Department of Defense and Strategic Studies. In addition to his work in government, Brian's teaches graduate level courses at several local universities, and he has authored or co-authored multiple academic books on cyber issues. He lives in Falls Church, Virginia with his wife and four children.

### **Anuj Mehta, MD, MS**

- Interim Director, Medical Intensive Care Unit, Interim Director, Progressive Care Unit and Medical Director, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation Program, Denver Health and Hospital Authority
- Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
  - *Speaker, Patient Care during Disasters: What to do When Standards Don't Exist*

Dr. Anuj B. Mehta is a Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician at Denver Health and Hospital Authority and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He also holds an adjunct appointment at the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities. Dr. Mehta attended Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, NY. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College and his Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship at Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center. He also completed a Master of Science degree in Clinical Research at the University of Colorado. He spends the majority of his clinical time caring for critically ill patients in the intensive care unit (ICU). He currently runs an NIH-funded research program focused on improving patient-centered care in the ICU through the implementation of shared decision-making as well as determining non-biologic factors that may contribute to between-hospital variation in critical care utilization and outcomes. He is the lead author on multiple original research publications in high impact journals and has contributed to several policy/research statements from international societies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Mehta chaired the committee that developed Colorado's Crisis Standards of Care and the committee that developed the initial vaccine prioritization plan for Colorado. He serves on Colorado's Vaccine Equity Taskforce and continues to work with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on vaccine planning and education. His vaccine education talks have been viewed by thousands of individuals. More recently, Dr. Mehta serves as the Chair of the Medical Advisory Panel for the Mountain Plains Regional Health Disaster Response System, a federally funded program designed to develop

regional strategies for public health disasters. He is leading regional efforts to address recent blood culture bottle and IV fluid shortages.

### **Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP**

- President-Elect, American College of Emergency Physicians
  - *Speaker, Introductory Remarks*

Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP, is an emergency physician with Central Emergency Physicians in Kentucky. Dr. Stanton is the EMS medical director for Lexington-Fayette Urban County, and medical director for the AMR/NASCAR safety team and other EMS agencies. Dr. Stanton is a chief medical contributor for Fox 56 News and creator/host of the ACEP Frontline podcast. He is a past president of the Kentucky Chapter of ACEP. Dr. Stanton has a medical degree from James H. Quillen College of Medicine and completed his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Kentucky.

### **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
- Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine
  - *Speaker, Update on Disaster Medicine as a Subspecialty*
  - *Moderator, Patient Care during Disasters: What to do When Standards Don't Exist*
  - *Member, Conference Planning Committee*

Dr. Bryan Wexler is the Medical Director of Disaster Preparedness and Response at WellSpan Health and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Wexler attended Amherst College prior to training at Tufts University School of Medicine, subsequently completing his residency at WellSpan York Hospital in Emergency Medicine where he served as a chief resident. He completed his fellowship in Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management at the UMass Chan Medical School. In addition to being a dual board-certified Emergency Medicine and EMS Medicine physician, he also completed a Master of Public Health and holds certifications in healthcare business continuity. Dr. Wexler serves on disaster preparedness committees and task forces at the local, regional, and national level. He supports the Keystone Healthcare Coalition as physician advisor and is chairman of the York-Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System. Dr. Wexler led the ACEP task force in developing the 2023 Model Core Curriculum of Disaster Medicine and currently serves as the chair of ACEP's Disaster Medicine Section as well as the vice-chair of ACEP's Disaster Medicine Committee. In addition to Disaster Medicine, Dr. Wexler's interests include psychological resiliency, system development, and resource management.