

Infection Prevention and Control: Incorporating Lessons Learned in Managing Special Pathogens

Brief Speaker Biographies November 7, 2022

Welcome

Rachel Lehman

Acting Director, Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

Rachel Lehman is the Acting System Owner and Director for ASPR TRACIE. She previously she 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 healthcare sector. Prior to joining ASPR, she supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies Office of Research and Development working on chemical risk assessment.

Moderator

John Hick, MD

Hennepin Healthcare and ASPR TRACIE

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 and from 2002-2014. He currently serves as the Senior Editor for ASPR's Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange. 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.

Presenters

Justin Chan, MD, MPH

Director, Infection Prevention and Control, NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue

Dr. Chan joined NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue in 2021 and serves as Director of Infection Prevention and Control. He is a member of the Bellevue Special Pathogens Program team which runs the HHS Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC). He supports NYC Health + Hospitals, the nation's largest municipal health system, as System Chief Hospital Epidemiologist and co-chairs the system's Infectious Diseases Clinical Council, composed of all the Infectious Diseases Directors and Hospital Epidemiologists, reporting to and advising the System Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Chan completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Infectious Diseases fellowship training at the Massachusetts General Hospital / Brigham and Women's Hospital combined program. He received his MPH at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine: <https://med.nyu.edu/faculty/justin-chan>.

Alexander Isakov, MD, MPH, FACEP, FAEMS

Emory University and NETEC

Dr. Isakov is a professor of emergency medicine at Emory University. He is the executive director of the Emory Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR), which reports to university executive leadership and serves as the center for Emory enterprise-wide planning for and coordinated response to catastrophic events. He is also the director of Emory's Section of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine whose faculty provides medical oversight for 911 communications centers, and ground and air ambulance responders in metropolitan Atlanta. He is the EMS lead for the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC). He is a recognized Subject Matter Expert for ASPR TRACIE with whom he collaborated for the development of the EMS Infectious Disease Playbook. Dr. Isakov is currently the Principal for the HHS Region 4 Regional Disaster Health Response System. He practices clinically in the emergency department of Emory University Hospital.

James Lawler, MD, MPH, FIDSA

Executive Director, International Programs and Innovation, Global Center for Health Security, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. James Lawler is co-Executive Director of the Global Center for Health Security, Woody and Paula Varner Professor, and Professor of Medicine in Infectious Disease at the University of

Nebraska Medical Center. He is also a Deputy Medical Director for the Nebraska Biocontainment Unit and the Principle Investigator for the Region 7 Disaster Health Response Ecosystem project. Dr. Lawler's career has focused on emerging infectious diseases, medical, public health, and pandemic preparedness, and global health. He previously served in national biodefense and health security policy positions in the White House during the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations, research positions at the US Military Research Institute for Infectious Diseases and the Naval Medical Research Center, and as Chief Medical Officer for the NIAID Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick. Dr. Lawler's operational experience includes evacuation of American citizens quarantined on the cruise ship Diamond Princess in Yokohama, Japan, multiple viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks in sub-Saharan Africa, hurricane relief, and the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He retired from the US Navy Medical Corps in 2017 after 21 years of active service.

Syra Madad, DHSc, MSc, MCP

Senior Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program, NYC Health + Hospitals

[Access Dr. Madad's bio here.](#)